NEW YORK POST
Page Six®
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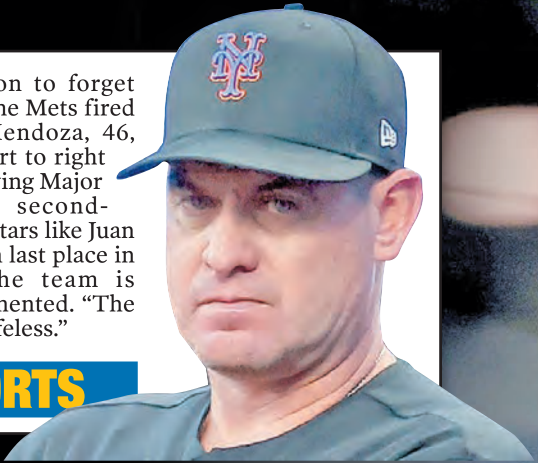
Manager fired as $330 million Mets languish in last place (and it's only June!)

As another season to forget unfurls in Queens, the Mets fired manager Carlos Mendoza, 46, yesterday in an effort to right the ship. Despite having Major League Baseball's second-biggest payroll and stars like Juan Soto, the Mets are in last place in the NL East. "The team is lifeless," one fan lamented. "The team last year was lifeless."

SEE SPORTS



2026
METS
11 Straight L's
LGM!
Mets
Getty Images

AMAZIN' DISGRACE

SAUNDERS

A HIGHER FORM OF REALTY

PRIME HAMPTONS REAL ESTATE

WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE | 35 Sunset Drive, Sag Harbor | Saturday 6/27, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

BAY POINT NEW CONSTRUCTION

5 Bedrooms | 5 Baths, 2 Half | 5,200+/- SF | .23 Acre | Heated Gunite Pool | Rooftop Deck
Sag Harbor | Exclusive $4.95M | 35SunsetDrive.com

OPEN HOUSE | 66 Hillside Drive East, Sag Harbor
Saturday 6/27, 11am - 1pm | Sunday 6/28, 11am - 12:30pm

JUST COMPLETED NEW CONSTRUCTION

6 Bedrooms | 6 Baths, 2 Half | 4,519+/- SF | .35 Acre | Heated Pool
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OPEN HOUSE | 16 Elisha's Path, Wainscott
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SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY RETREAT

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Stay cool in muni pools!

This will make a splash.

Dozens of Big Apple outdoor pools are slated to open for the summer season this weekend — and Parks Department workers and maintenance crews are racing to add the finishing touches.

More than 50 massive outdoor pools across the five boroughs — including 13 Olympic-sized pools and 17 mini-pools meant for tots — will officially open Saturday at 11 a.m., a Parks rep confirmed to The Post.

"Our maintenance staff has been working for weeks to prepare our pools," the rep said.

This summer, 51 of the city's 53 outdoor pools will be open, according to Parks.

Some of the largest offerings include Crotona and Van Cortlandt pools in The Bronx, Astoria Pool in Queens and the year-old Gottesman Pool at the Davis Center in Manhattan.

The Haffen Pool in The Bronx will be closed for a $13.4 million reconstruction project that began in April, and the Tony Dapolito Pool in Manhattan — with an iconic Keith Haring mural — is shuttered "due to the site's structural condition and a planned reconstruction," the rep said.

Nicole Rosenthal

BACKGRID

The Mediterranean beach season gets underway swimmingly for 51-year-old fitness-buff superstar Eva Longoria on the sands of Marbella as the "Desperate Housewives" legend enjoys a carefree frolic with her hubby and son this week. Eva's latest dramatic flick, "The Last Sunrise" from Amazon MGM studios, is due to debut in August on Amazon Prime.

Fit Eva fun in the sun

PETE'S 'FERRY' BAD TIME

ADRIFT: Pete Davidson (below) won't be able to dock his boat for a US 250 bash.

S.I. ship plan sinks

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

Pete Davidson's latest scheme to revamp his Staten Island ferry boondoggle is dead in the water.

A plan to dock the decommissioned ship-turned-party boat at a Manhattan pier for the blockbuster US 250 bash has officially sunk after the comedian failed to secure the proper permits, The Post has learned.

The city's Economic Development Corp broke the news to Community Board 1 Thursday after its members spent weeks raising numerous concerns about wedging the John F. Kennedy ferry at Pier 15 near the South Street Seaport.

"We really want to make sure that there's a demonstration of clear community benefit or protecting the quality of life. That the public deck stays a public deck. We don't want to privatize what minimal public space we have on the waterfront for a pay-to-play always," the board's chair, Tammy Meltzer, told The Post.

What exactly sank the proposed plans is still unclear. Davidson and fellow SNL funnyman Colin Jost have plans to turn the ship into a party venue with restaurants and bars, though it's unclear which sections would have been ready to open by the July 4th holiday.

Another second source told The Post that permits could be approved to allow the Davidson and Jost's vessel to berth at the lower Manhattan pier later this summer.

The EDC and City Hall refused to respond to numerous calls from The Post. The Stand Group, a partner of Davidson and Jost, also failed to return numerous requests for comment.

The quiet plans had been revealed as a small footnote in an ongoing legal dispute over the lease between the Watermark Bar and the city — with the restaurant alleging that the EDC was rushing a plan to dock the famed ferry at Pier 15 at the expense of the tenants and the neighborhood.

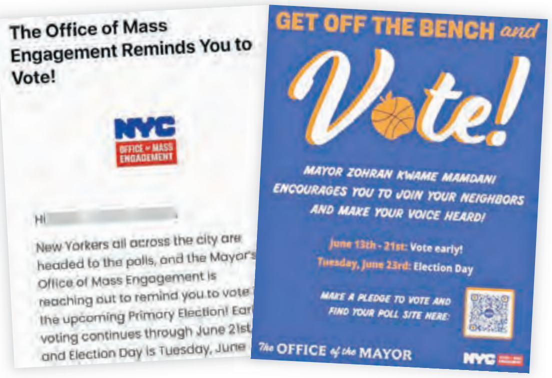
"We've said many times: before moving forward with the proposal for this boat, there have to be clear answers regarding public safety, emergency response, infrastructure readiness, crowd management, transportation accessibility and event permitting," said Meltzer. "It's really a complicated thing because it's not a boat that can go anywhere — it has to be towed into place. It's a venue that holds about 4,000 people that's operating on a city-owned pier for an extended period of time."

‘Mam’ spam propaganda

City Hall staff vote push

By CRAIG McCARTHY

Mayor Mamdani’s controversial, $54 million Office of Mass Engagement repeatedly spammed New Yorkers with Hizzoner-branded pleas to vote leading up to the primaries this week, in what some critics called a barely legal campaign effort that had little effect on turnout.



The Office of Mass Engagement Reminds You to Vote!

NYC
OFFICE of MASS ENGAGEMENT

Hi [redacted]

New Yorkers all across the city are headed to the polls, and the Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement is reaching out to remind you to vote the upcoming Primary Election! Ear voting continues through June 21st and Election Day is Tuesday, June

GET OFF THE BENCH and

Vote!

MAYOR ZOHRAN KWAME MAMDANI ENCOURAGES YOU TO JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

June 13th - 21st: Vote early!
Tuesday, June 23rd: Election Day

MAKE A PLEDGE TO VOTE AND FIND YOUR POLL SITE HERE:

The OFFICE of the MAYOR
NYC

SHADY: Mayor Mamdani broke with ethical norms in using City Hall staff and spurring the vote with materials resembling campaign ads, critics claim.

The newly created unit — which has been slammed as a “propaganda office” — spent weeks emailing and texting Big Apple voters with reminders about the June primaries that was denounced by some as a publicly funded electioneering effort by the mayor.

“There are some things that are legal but unethical, this is one of them,” one city political operative said of the effort.

The effort — which included Mamdani staffers approaching revelers at the Knicks ticker-tape parade — was ripped for featuring ads with the mayor’s name and font similar to his campaign and similar to ads run for his slate of endorsed socialist candidates for Congress.

Lack of independence

“If it looks like electioneering, reads like electioneering and quacks like electioneering, it’s abusing government resources for politics,” said one former Mayor Eric Adams official. “Imagine this had the name of any other mayor, COIB [Conflict of Interest Board] would be shining a light in everybody’s eyes.”

Elected officials are not allowed to use their office to sway people on how to vote and have typically kept their names off any get-out-the-vote campaigns to ensure they do not inadvertently run afoul of city ethics laws. Such efforts are historically handled by the city’s independent Campaign Finance Board.

And despite allegedly blurring the lines of electioneering, the campaign seems to have had little effect.

Roughly 570,000 people cast their ballots Tuesday, just about 40,000 more votes than in 2022, the last off-year election, but with far fewer competitive races on the ballot.

Super PACs’ $50M

They PAC a punch!

Partisan super PAC groups lavished more than $50 million into the four contested Big Apple congressional races that ended with a stunning far-left takeover in Tuesday’s Democratic primaries, records show.

The crowded race to replace retiring Rep. Jerry Nadler in Manhattan’s 12th Congressional District led the pack with a staggering $40.8 million in super PAC spending — making it one of the most expensive in House history, according to records. Roughly 102,000 Democrats cast ballots in that five-person race — meaning super PACs ultimately spent $398 per vote, records show.

The campaigns for eventual winner state Assemblyman Micah Lasher and runner-up Alex Bores, who’s also in the Assembly, only spent a fraction of that outlay, preliminary campaign finance records show.

“When most of the total campaign spending in a race is done by super PACs, the public will presume candidates are beholden to those funding the super PAC,” said Alex Camarda, of the Reinvent Albany good government group. *Carl Campanile*

Trump jabs ‘commie’ NY

WASHINGTON — President Trump joked Friday that he could be “the greatest communist in history” as he blasted Mayor Mamdani’s new rent freeze and three socialist wins in House primary elections.

Trump said barring the owners of nearly 1 million rent-stabilized apartments from charging tenants more money for two years would lead to ruin.

“Communism . . . destroys everything, but it’s very easy,” Trump said. *Ally Goelz and Steven Nelson*

Supreme snub

GO NO: Mayor Mamdani vowed on Friday to ignore a Supreme Court ruling that backs the stripping of temporary protected status from Haitians and Syrians and oppose federal deportation efforts.

By MATTHEW FISCHETTI

Mayor Mamdani promised to never accept the US Supreme Court’s ruling allowing President Trump’s administration to strip deportation protection for Haitian and Syrian migrants.

“To have people who frankly taught the world about freedom have their own freedom put into jeopardy by the actions of a Supreme Court and federal administration — it is not only cruel, it’s not something we will ever accept,” Hizzoner said in a video statement after Thursday’s bombshell 6-3 ruling.

The high court ruled that the “temporary protected status” statutes don’t allow for judicial review and that lower courts can’t intervene in the Trump administration’s decision to remove deportation protections for more than 6,000 Syrians and 350,000 Haitians living in the US.

Mamdani immediately rallied with immigration advocates, Gov. Hochul and state Attorney General Letitia James following the ruling and released the defiant video message afterward.

Backs immigrants

“The Supreme Court just sparked one of the largest attacks on immigrants in modern American history. In one fell swoop, thousands of Haitians and Syrians now risk losing the right to live and work in the country they call home,” Mamdani also said in a statement issued by City Hall.

“This decision will cause enormous pain across the five boroughs. Here in New York, it falls hardest on our Haitian community, one of the largest in the country, alongside Syrian families,” the statement said.

“To the tens of thousands of New Yorkers with TPS who are watching the news, frightened about what comes next, hear me clearly: New York City is your home. You belong here. We will not turn our backs on you.”

City Hall said the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs would be sharing “additional information and resources soon.”

“You will not face this cruelty alone. This administration will stand alongside immigrant New Yorkers today, tomorrow and every day that follows,” Mamdani said.

New York’s sanctuary rules largely prevent local law en-

with Haiti, Syria sanctuary vow

MAYOR 'STAYS' COURT RULING

Matt Roberts/Shutterstock

forcement from enforcing federal immigration laws and operations or cooperating with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

But Mamdani has boosted the Big Apple's sanctuary rules since taking office in January.

The mayor signed an executive order in February strengthening sanctuary protections, including a prohibition on ICE entering city property like public schools, homeless shelters and hospitals without a judicial warrant.

As part of the executive order, The mayor's office also said it was auditing city agencies to examine whether they were upholding sanctuary policies and issued recommendations for departments to better comply with the rules. It also ordered the training of city workers on sanctuary laws.

Fight vs. ICE

"We will make it clear once again ICE will not be able to enter New York City property without a judicial warrant. That means our schools, our shelters and our hospitals," Mamdani said at the time.

City data shows there are roughly 115,000 Haitians and nearly 12,000 Syrians across the Big Apple.

TPS protections had been in place for Syrians since 2012 due to the outbreak of civil war and has been in place for Haitians since 2010 following the deadly earthquake.

The Trump administration successfully removed TPS designation for Venezuelan migrants after the Supreme Court issued a similar ruling.

mfischetti@nypost.com

'Left out': Torres voters talk

Not like us.

Bronx residents repped by Rep. Ritchie Torres — a pro-Israel moderate Democrat who trounced a progressive challenger this week — said a "whole ocean" separates them from the far-left wave that swept crunchy Big Apple neighborhoods.

While three Mayor Mamdani-backed lefties prevailed over establishment Dems in areas including swanky Manhattan and Brooklyn neighborhoods, Torres dominated foe Michael Blake in the 15th House District covering the working-class south and west Bronx.

A slew of Torres (inset) constituents told The Post the lefties' mix of Israel-bashing and Democratic Socialists of America ideological box-checking wouldn't fly there.

"When you think of Park Slope and Greenwich Village and who lives there compared to us here, The Bronx, there is a whole ocean separating us," said Carlos M., 38, a dad of two who works in sales.

"They don't have to think about not having enough money to pay the rent, skipping one bill to pay another, roaches crawling all over your apartment like they own the place," he said, shaking his head.

Georgett Roberts
and Matt Troutman

Rabbis insist Zo apologize

More than 700 rabbis from across the US have signed an open letter demanding that Mayor Mamdani apologize for calling the American Israel Public Affairs Committee "monsters" who move "millions in dark money" to preserve their power.

"Using the language of 'monsters' against political opponents is an act of dehumanization, and when the targets of that dehumanization are overwhelmingly associated with the Jewish community the consequences become especially dangerous," read the letter organized by the pro-Zionism group the Jewish Majority.

Carl Campanile

Zohran's rent-stabilize plan already

FREEZE THE RENT!
NO INCREASES ON ALL LEASES
MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK
FREEZE THE RENT
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS
FREEZE

Kevin C. Downs for NY Post

By CRAIG McCARTHY,
MATTHEW FISCHETTI,
FENIX SURIEL and ALEX OLIVEIRA

Mayor Mamdani's rent freeze is set to face serious legal challenges — with critics already slamming the newly passed policy as a "political sham" that could cause huge rent hikes for market-rate tenants.

Landlords have been gearing up for the legal battle for months in anticipation of Thursday's Rent Guidelines Board vote, insiders told The Post, with lawsuits expected to be filed in the coming weeks.

"Landlords might successfully argue that the freeze does not properly account for rising operating costs," real estate lawyer Massimo D'Angelo said Friday. "They would need to show that the economic impact of a freeze and its interference with investment expectations is severe."

Another "potentially stronger" argument that building-owners could take to court would be that their due process rights were violated, with the RGB accused of ignoring evidence on landlords' rising costs before enacting the pause.

"Landlords would, in that case, argue that data on operating expenses weren't properly considered," D'Angelo said.

If legal challenges are unsuccessful, D'Angelo predicted landlords will either sell their properties or begin neglecting them — none of which would benefit tenants Mamdani professes to help.

"I think a lot of these buildings are going to be sold at a discounted rate," he said. "A freeze that fails to account for these rising operating costs really strengthens the argument.

'It helps no one'

"Landlords are just not going to make repairs to stabilizer units," he said. "There's no incentive to update the units, leading to these tenants living in these subpar apartments. It helps no one."

The 7-1 vote was cheered by watching crowds, with the passage ushering into action one of the core tenets of Mamdani's campaign — where the phrase "freeze the rent" was often plastered on signs, pushed on social media and chanted by supporters.

It came after one member of the nine-person RGB, a landlord ad-

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ERIC KOBER

Locked in and left out

Housing scheme actually hurts NYC

WITH Mayor Mamdani's supporters exultant over the rent freeze approved by his stacked Rent Guidelines Board, it's perhaps rude to point out the many downsides of this latest pander to his voter base.

Point out we must, however: Mamdani's board has created a crazily skewed housing market in which some people are big winners and most others lose — while the city becomes less dynamic.

In the latest city survey in 2023, the median income for rent-stabilized tenant households was $60,000, and 30% had incomes over $100,000.

Are you one of the latter group — a graduate of a selective college, working a professional job and living in the "Commie Corridor" of northern Brooklyn and western Queens?

Your rent is frozen, even if you get regular raises.

Of course, many poor households have had their rent frozen, too.

But they will pay a price, because their landlord is likely losing money and can't properly maintain their building. Their plight will now get worse.

Not so our "Commie Corridor" friend, whose landlord probably also operates market-rate units whose rents will go up even faster.

Supply/demand math

Are you a new college grad, taking your first job in the Big Apple? No freeze for you.

A vacant rent-stabilized apartment for rent is almost unobtainable.

In 2023, the rental vacancy rate for rent-stabilized apartments was about 1% — and that will now get worse: No sane tenant would move out.

And in the rare instance where a long-term tenant passes away or must move into a care facility, units stay vacant. Where is the landlord going to find the money to fix up the apartment?

No, my college grad friend, you're competing with all the other grads for market-rate units.

Unfortunately, NYC also has very restrictive zoning, so we can't supply the number of units people want. Thus, market rents keep hitting new highs — with the median rent hitting $5,125 per month in Manhattan.

Have you considered taking a job in Raleigh or Nashville instead?

Despite what progressives argue, rent-stabilized units, which make up 40% of the rental market, make New York *less* affordable.

Trapped by fortune

It keeps the vacancy rate incredibly small, driving up costs. And people lucky enough to have rent-stabilized apartments are so trapped by fortune they never leave — whether they outgrow the apartment or it outgrows them.

Families of five are crammed into one-bedrooms. And 41% of rent-stabilized tenants are single adults. How many of them live in 2- or 3-bedroom units where their children grew up and moved out?

Anyone paying attention knows "frozen" rents don't work.

Consider what happened after the Mitchell-Lama public housing projects got into financial trouble in the 1970s. The legislature knew the system was unsustainable, so it demanded that rents on those buildings must cover operating costs.

If you live in the Mitchell-Lama project in The Bronx called Tracey Towers, your rent is going up by 31%.

Political brilliance

One kind of private housing is getting a rent increase. But no such luck for rent-stabilized landlords.

So if you're lucky enough to have a rent-stabilized apartment in a building where other units are deregulated, congratulations. Pretty much everyone else is a loser, in the short or longer term.

They will see their homes deteriorate or pay exorbitant market rents.

The political brilliance of the scheme is that many of these losers have a strong incentive to move somewhere cheaper.

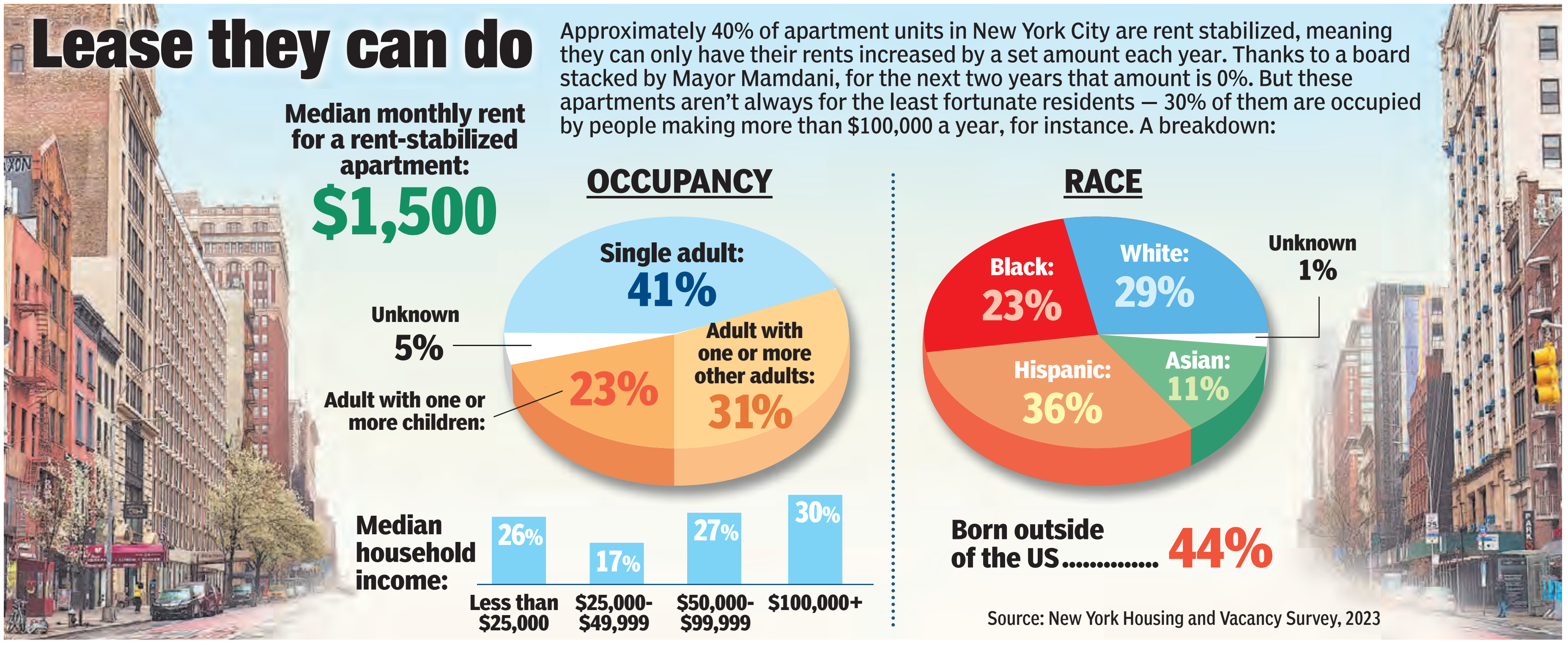
They may be mad at Mamdani — but they won't be here to vote against him for re-election in 2029.

Eric Kober is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

facing lawsuit threats: ‘It’s a sham’

Lease they can do

Approximately 40% of apartment units in New York City are rent stabilized, meaning they can only have their rents increased by a set amount each year. Thanks to a board stacked by Mayor Mamdani, for the next two years that amount is 0%. But these apartments aren’t always for the least fortunate residents — 30% of them are occupied by people making more than $100,000 a year, for instance. A breakdown:



Source: New York Housing and Vacancy Survey, 2023

NO CHILL: “Freeze the rent,” a pillar of Mayor Mamdani’s campaign, easily passed a Rent Guidelines Board vote Thursday. Landlords are already prepping lawsuits to fight the 7-1 decision.

LEGAL HEAT ON FREEZE

vocate appointed by former Mayor Eric Adams, publicly resigned while claiming the panel’s decision might have crossed a legal line.

Christina Smyth argued the RGB ignored its own data about rising landlord costs and “stopped being a fact-finding body, instead becoming dedicated to delivering one of Mamdani’s key promises.

The decision had really been made “last year on the campaign trail,” she wrote in a scathing resignation letter.

Mamdani — who appointed six of the current RGB members — has argued the board was independent.

The decision will block rent increases on one- and two-year leases for the 1 million stabilized units across New York City, beginning between Oct. 1, 2026, and Sept. 30, 2027. A later vote would be held to determine whether the freeze continues into 2028.

‘Politically motivated’

Critics claimed the vote was hardly an impartial examination of renter and landlord needs, as the RGB is intended to be — while arguing the millions of New Yorkers who don’t live in stabilized units will just end up paying more.

D’Angelo agreed with Smyth, calling the vote a farce and questioning who the freeze will actually help.

“It’s irrational. It’s a sham. It was clearly politically motivated. The outcome was preordained,” he said. “If you go to the Upper West Side, it’s all these rich white people who have passed these down.”

Indeed, about 41% of stabilized units are occupied by single adults without children, while about 30% make more than $100,000 year, according to city housing data from 2023, the most recent year publicly available.

And one group is certain they will gain nothing from the freeze — landlords.

“They are going to take my f--king buildings. I’m desperate,” said Violet Zharku, who owns three rent-stabilized buildings in Queens and told The Post she’s spent years doing everything possible to update apartments between tenants — work which included recently pouring money into a new roof.

“We still wanted to invest in it and provide good quality housing. We did nice renovations in there because we want nice apartments, so we put a significant amount of money in there,” she said.

“We were in financial distress before even this rent freeze,” Zharku said. “Now this rent freeze is just like, OK, we’re putting up these freaking buildings up for sale.”

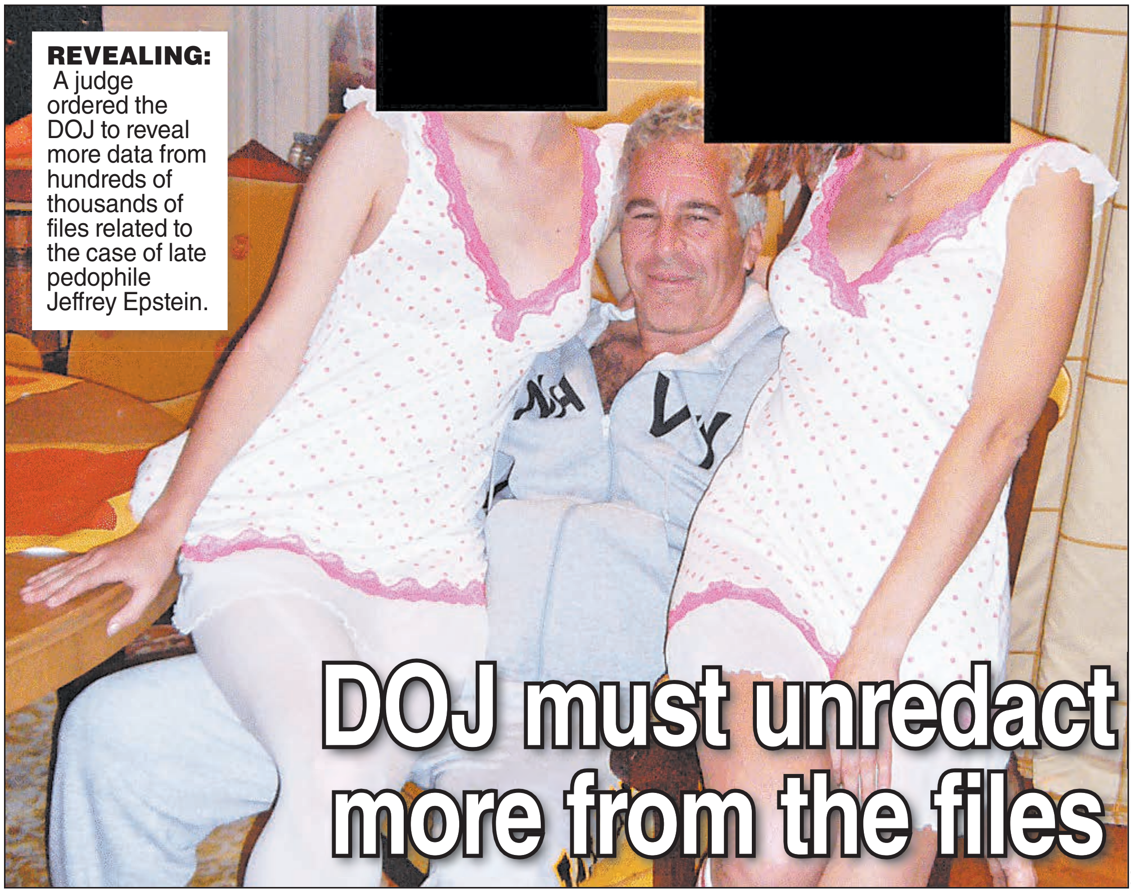
Frank Velovic, a Midtown doorman who also owns two Astoria properties, called rent freezes a “very bad idea” and a “disaster.”

“It’s nuts,” the 67-year-old said. “If a landlord doesn’t have income, how is he going to maintenance the property?

Rent freezes for one-year leases were previously passed three times, all under then-Mayor Bill de Blasio, in 2015, 2016 and 2020.

Judge: Bare Epstein

By SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN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REVEALING: A judge ordered the DOJ to reveal more data from hundreds of thousands of files related to the case of late pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

DOJ must unredact more from the files

DOJ

A federal judge ordered the Justice Department Thursday to reveal more information from hundreds of thousands of recently released files about the case of late pedophile Jeffrey Epstein or provide a detailed explanation for why it could not do so.

US District Judge Emmet Sullivan gave the DOJ until July 2 to turn over less-redacted versions of certain documents or show why that information could not be made public. He also ordered the Trump administration to publish a log of all redactions.

In his order, Sullivan noted that the Epstein Files Transparency Act, signed into law by President Trump this past November, "required the production of the covered documents and the redaction log by December 19, 2025. The [acting] Attorney General [Todd Blanche] conceded that he is in violation of the Act."

Triggered by lawsuit

Blanche, Trump's pick to replace Pam Bondi as America's top law enforcement officer, had been sued in late April by independent journalist and former MSNBC (now MS NOW) host Katie Phang, who charged the administration had "failed to produce the required documents within the time required. It has improperly redacted documents and failed to adequately explain those redactions. And it has either retracted, or failed to produce entirely, documents that should have been produced."

Among the documents covered by Sullivan's order are:

■ An April 24, 2009, email in which Epstein told a correspondent whose name was withheld: "I loved the torture video."

■ A March 11, 2014, email in which someone wrote Epstein: "Thank you for a fun night . . . Your littlest girl was a little naughty."

■ A May 23, 2017, email in which someone told Epstein a woman they both knew was "like Lolita from Nabokov, femme miniature" and asked him: "So now I should send you her type of candidate only?"

■ A prospective federal indictment of Epstein and four co-defendants out of South Florida on sex trafficking conspiracy charges in the late 2000s that was ultimately dropped in exchange for the financier pleading guilty to two state prostitution charges.

■ An Oct. 8, 2019, email identifying four potential co-conspirators along with Epstein's convicted accomplice and on-again, off-again girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell.

■ FBI notes about a series of interviews with a woman who accused Trump of sexually assaulting her while she was underage after Epstein introduced them.

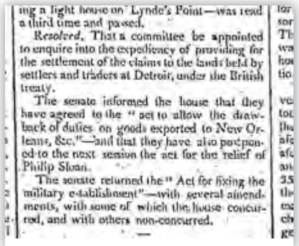
The acting attorney general has insisted the DOJ has no new material to release about the Epstein case, claiming any documents the department currently has are duplicates of files already made public or contain explicit material about victims of the disgraced financier.

The Justice Department has also noted that the files contain unverified allegations that aren't normally made public by law enforcement, and added in a January statement that those included "unfounded and false" claims about the president.

House subpoenas Black

Billionaire investor Leon Black was hit with subpoenas from the House Oversight Committee during testimony on his relationship with late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Black (left), co-founder of Apollo Global Management, had refused to answer lawmakers' questions about any possible nondisclosure deals between him and women connected to Epstein, lawmakers said. *Josh Christenson and James Franey*



ing a light house on Lynde's Point—was read a third time and passed.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing for the settlement of the claims to the lands held by settlers and traders at Detroit, under the British treaty.

The senate informed the house that they have agreed to the "act to allow the drawback of duties on goods exported to New Orleans, &c."—and that they have also postponed to the next session the act for the relief of Philip Sloan.

The senate returned the "Act for fixing the military establishment"—with several amendments, with some of which the house concurred, and with others non-concurred.

Military boost for nation

The Post is counting down to America's 250th birthday with a look back at the nation's — and the paper's — history. Every day leading up to the big event on July 4, we're publishing notable covers and stories from our archives:

March 15, 1802
The Military Peace Establishment Act of 1802

A few sentences on Page 3 noted that, on March 8, Congress had advanced an "Act for fixing the military establishment."

Just over a week later, on March 16, Thomas Jefferson would sign the Military Peace Establishment Act into law.

Happy
250th,
USA!

The legislation created the US Military Academy in West Point, NY — the first national institution for training leaders of the American armed forces — and established the permanent Army Corps of Engineers at a time when the US needed trained expertise to design and build the roads, canals, bridges and harbors that would help connect the states and power the nation's economy.

The law also downsized the army, from 5,400 to 3,300 men, a move that would leave the country unprepared for the coming War of 1812. *Warren Cohen*

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Fri.: **061**
■ Midday Win-4 Fri.: **6664**
■ Midday Take-5 Fri.:
3, 16, 18, 20, 25
■ Evening Nos. Fri.: **575**
■ Evening Win-4 Fri.: **1642**
■ Evening Take-5 Fri.:
3, 10, 14, 28, 36
■ Pick-10 Fri.: **2, 4, 11, 12, 14, 16, 26, 29, 43, 44, 51, 56, 58, 64, 68, 72, 76, 77, 78, 79**
■ Millionaire for Life Fri.:
7, 15, 33, 37, 51; MB: **2**
■ Mega Millions Fri.:
5, 13, 30, 33, 52; MB: **6**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Fri.: **666;** Fireball: **6**
■ Pick-4 Fri.: **7333;** Fireball: **6**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **13, 17, 19, 25, 33**; Xtra: **2**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Fri.: **277;** Wild: **8**
■ Play-4 Fri.: **1139;** Wild: **1**
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‘Minny’ bust in Somalia

A “central figure” in a $250 million Minnesota welfare fraud scheme was arrested in Somalia this week after spending nearly four years on the run, the Justice Department announced Friday.

Abdikerm Eidleh, 42, was one of the original suspects indicted in connection to the nation’s largest COVID-19 fraud scheme — the infamous Feeding Our Future scam. He was taken into custody in Somalia’s capital city of Mogadishu on Thursday, according to prosecutors.

In September 2022, Eidleh was hit with 31 counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering for his alleged role in the scheme to steal pandemic relief funds from a federal program meant to feed hungry children in need.

Assistant Attorney General Colin McDonald — President Trump’s fraud czar — called Eidleh a “central figure in one of the largest fraud schemes in Minnesota history.”

“He not only stole taxpayer dollars, but he also robbed vulnerable children of critical resources they desperately needed,” McDonald said. *Victor Nava*

Buttigieg ‘kid hoax’ agony

Former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg revealed Friday that he was the target of a “politically motivated hoax” falsely accusing him of a “horrific crime,” resulting in authorities ordering him to stay away from his young children.

Buttigieg described the 24-hour ordeal as “among the darkest hours of my life,” in a lengthy Substack post recounting how an anonymous report prompted Michigan law enforcement and Child Protective Services to visit his home and interview his 4-year-old twins.

“I still worry about the harm it has done,” Buttigieg wrote. *Victor Nava, Wires*

‘STACHE’D AWAY AFTER GUILTY PLEA

‘BOLT’ OF REALITY: Former national security adviser John Bolton is facing up to five years in prison after pleading guilty Friday to one count of hoarding national defense information.

Getty Images

By JOSH CHRISTENSON
and SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN

Bolton faces jail for info hoard

GREENBELT, Md. — President Trump’s former national security adviser John Bolton pleaded guilty Friday to a single count of hoarding national defense information while working in the White House, leaving the 77-year-old facing up to five years in federal prison.

Bolton, an Iran hawk and former US ambassador to the United Nations, copped to the charge during a nearly hourlong hearing in federal court just outside Washington, responding to US District Judge Theodore Chuang’s inquiry about whether he was guilty: “I am, Your Honor, and sorry for it.”

A court clerk later read the count aloud and asked Bolton, clad in a dark suit and striped tie, to formally enter his plea — which he did by saying “guilty” in a resolute tone.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, but US Attorney Kelly Hayes clarified to reporters following the hearing that the Justice Department was asking for a five-year sentence and three years of supervised release as part of a plea agreement that will also force Bolton to pay a $2.25 million fine.

Shared with family

“As Mr. Bolton just admitted, he put our national security at grave risk in violation of the law,” Hayes said of the former White House official. “No one is above the law.

“The national defense information at issue in this case was classified at the highest classification levels,” Hayes added, claiming that it “revealed intelligence about an adversary’s plans for an attack conducted against US forces in another country; it contained human intelligence using sensitive sources; and it discussed a covert action program.”

Sentencing was set for Oct. 28, with Chuang noting that Bolton would not be eligible for parole before releasing him.

The case judge, appointed to the federal bench by Barack Obama in 2014, made headlines last year for temporarily blocking efforts by the Department of Government Efficiency to dissolve the US Agency for International Development.

The ex-Trump official’s plea makes his case the first in a series brought by the 47th president’s Department of Justice against political adversaries — including former FBI Director James Comey and New York State Attorney General Letitia James — that has resulted in a conviction.

Bolton has been a frequent critic of Trump since his departure from the 45th president’s administration in September 2019.

Prosecutor Tanner Kroeger said Bolton shared “more than 1,000 pages” of classified information “in the form of diaries with two family members” — believed to be his wife and daughter — in anticipation of a memoir that he would be paid a $1.5 million advance to write.

‘Top secret’ info

That information was transmitted between the personal email accounts of Bolton and his relatives and stored digitally. The notes also existed in handwritten form based on jottings from his 17 months in the Trump White House.

While holding a top-secret security clearance, Bolton also transmitted eight documents over his private email despite “at no point” being authorized to do so, according to Kroeger.

Seven of those were determined to be classified at the “top secret” level, the highest under the US government’s national security system.

The longtime GOP foreign-policy figure was indicted by a federal grand jury this past October on 18 counts of illegally hoarding or sending sensitive information, raising the prospect that Bolton would spend the rest of his life behind bars after his Maryland home and DC office were raided by federal investigators on Aug. 22, 2025.

Bolton pleaded guilty to count 12 of the indictment, with prosecutors intending to formally dismiss the remaining counts at October’s sentencing hearing.

Among the items recovered by the FBI were documents about weapons of mass destruction, internal government communications about strategy, secret travel memos, and the US mission to the UN.

Who'd want a Queens baker dead?

By DAVID DeTURRIS, JOE MARINO
and MATT TROUTMAN

The slaying of a Jewish baker who moonlit as a rabbi remains a stone cold whodunit more than month after he was horrifically found shot dead near a lake in a Queens park.

Albert Itzkowitz, 75, was slain in broad daylight — with gunshots in his neck and back — along the shore of Kissena Lake on May 18.

His body was found shortly before 5 p.m., sparking a mystery that remains frustratingly unsolved for his loved ones.

"All motives" are being investigated and none are being ruled out, NYPD officials said, including the potential that Itzkowitz was the victim of an antisemitic hate crime.

"He didn't have any enemies," his distraught son, Moshe Oelbaum, told The Post a few days after the murder.

The seemingly humdrum last hours of Itzkowitz's life — except for the fatal confrontation with a still-unknown assailant or assailants — have been reconstructed by NYPD investigators.

Itzkowitz, an observant Jew who served as a rabbi at a nursing home, left his Kew Garden Hills house shortly before 6:15 a.m., police said.

After spending roughly two hours at a synagogue, he went to a Capital One Bank branch, where he made a withdrawal at 9 a.m., according to cops.

Shortly after 10 a.m., Itzkowitz returned home and went outside around 10:55 a.m. for a minute before going back indoors, police said. He left his home for a final time at 11 a.m. and walked over to a Walgreens, where he made a purchase.

Video footage shows Izkowitz's car approaching Kissena Park — a forested haven with a picturesque lake — a few minutes before 11:30 a.m., cops said.

His daughter, Leah Livshitz, said during a press conference Thursday that the park was a quiet place her dad "regularly visited during his lunch break."

Went to sunbathe

Police said Izkowitz was in the park to sunbathe, as he was found with a beach chair, a baseball cap and sunglasses with a crossword puzzle.

Whatever happened between Izkowitz's arrival and the discovery of his body roughly five hours later remains unknown.

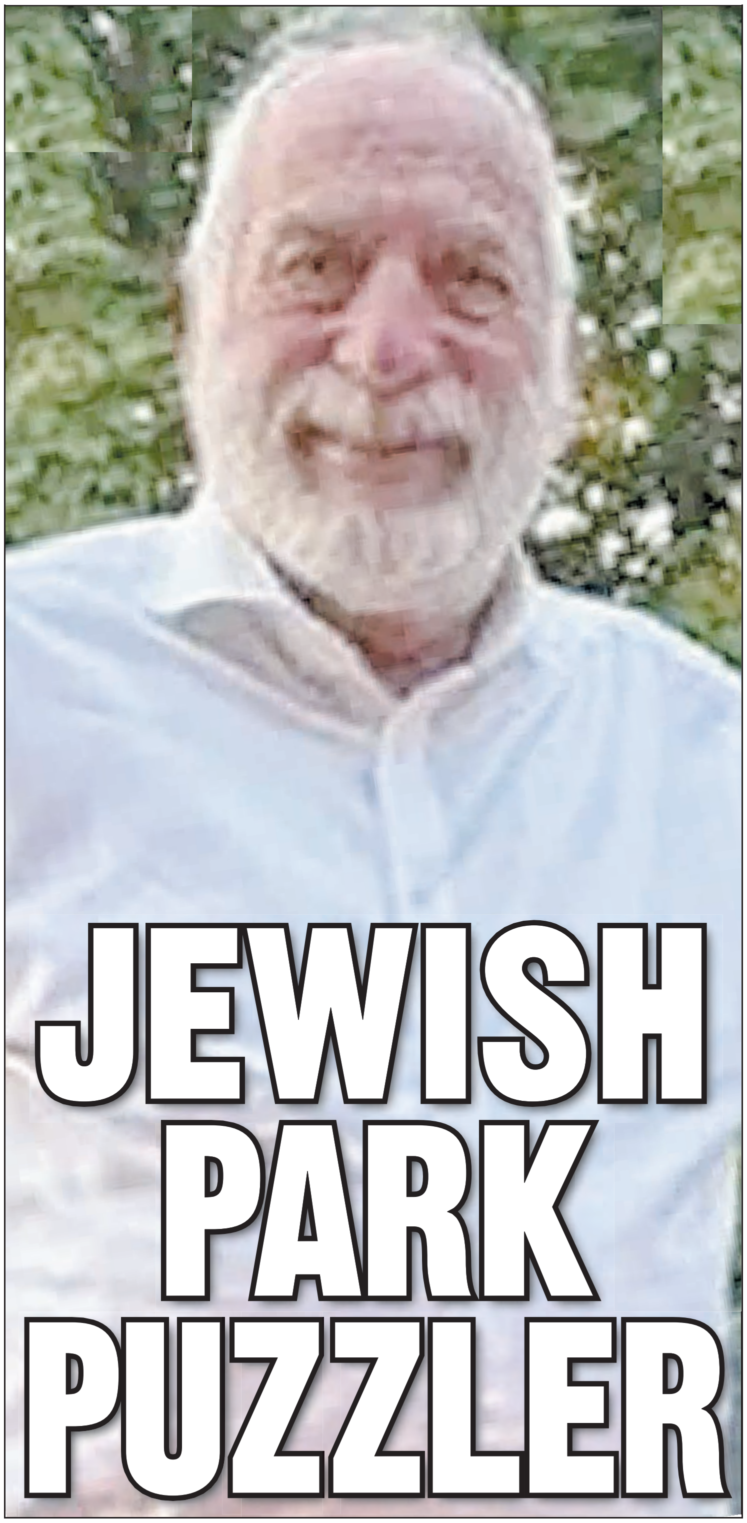
Police seemingly have no motive or suspects.

"When the police were asking us, 'Does he have any enemies? Does he have any neighbors who he had troubles with?' We all were crying," his son said.

"But at the same time we started laughing out loud and everyone started smiling, 'Enemies?' The thought is comical to us. He was the sweetest, kindest man. So nice and lovely to everyone."

Itzkowitz owned the G&I Kosher Bakery on Main Street, a neighborhood institution for several years before it shut down. He was also a volunteer EMT, according to his daughter.

Additional reporting by Georgett Roberts and Kevin Sheehan



JEWISH PARK PUZZLER

DCPI

BIZARRE: Baker and moonlighting rabbi Albert Itzkowitz, 75, was found dead in May by Kissena Lake in Queens with gunshots in his neck and back, a killing that's left NYPD investigators grasping for any clues.

Gun vics in Bx., Harlem

One man was shot in the foot and another was blasted in the leg in separate gun attacks in The Bronx and Manhattan this week, cops said.

The first shooting happened at around 6:20 p.m. Thursday evening in Manhattan, cops said.

A 28-year-old man told cops he was walking in the nabe when he was approached by two creeps dressed in all black at the corner of East 127th Street and Park Avenue in Harlem, according to police and law-enforcement sources.

The fiends then blasted the man in his right leg, cops said.

He was rushed to Harlem Hospital, where he's in stable condition, according to authorities. His assailants are still on the lam, cops said.

A teenager was shot not too much later in The Bronx, police said.

The 14-year-old boy was blasted in the left foot by an unknown assailant outside the Edenwald Houses around 9:40 p.m., cops said.

EMS rushed the boy to Jacobi Hospital, where he's in stable condition, according to authorities.

The teen's attacker then fled the scene, disappearing into the wind, cops said.

Police said no arrests have been made. *David DeTurris*

'Killed' kid, asked for $$

The upstate New York hoarder parents convicted in the death of their lice-infected 3-year-old daughter shamelessly asked for money the day after she died.

Samantha Dylewski, 33, and Matthew Dylewski, 34, were sentenced to up to four years in prison this month in the death of their daughter, Joycelynn Ann Dylewski, who was found with rotting teeth and bugs on her face when she died Feb. 19, 2025.

The next day, Samantha Dylewski shared a GoFundMe on her Facebook asking for money "To Help Give Jocelyn a Beautiful Goodbye." *Patrick Reilly*

Squatter bashed slay vic with fry pan

A ruthless teen squatter who helped beat a mother to death inside a Manhattan apartment admitted to bashing the doomed woman five times with a metal frying pan, it was revealed at her sentencing Friday.

The detail was unearthed as Kensley Alston, now 20, was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for bludgeoning beloved mom Natalie Vitels, after the woman found her and boyfriend, Halley Tejada, holed up in Vitels' Kips Bay apartment in 2024.

Vitels' heartbroken son, Misha, 23, said in a victim impact statement that even he didn't know the gruesome detail to the murder.

"[Alston] took the woman who had gave so much and was just about to get some back," Misha Vitels said.

Alston, who appeared in a pink polo shirt and jeans, mustered up a soft-spoken "I'm sorry" when given the chance to speak before Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Rachel Pauley issued the sentence. Alston, who was 18 at the time, and boyfriend Tejada, then 19, had been squatting for days inside Vitels' vacant apartment. Tejada was sentenced to 20 years. *Greg Carlton*

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STRAIT PAYBACK

‘UNWARRANTED’: President Trump OK’d a US strike against Iran after its drone fleet hit a Singapore-flagged cargo ship in an act of “unwarranted aggression” in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday.

Reuters; Getty Images

US hits Iran for attack on cargo ship

By VICTOR NAVA,
CAITLIN DOORNBOS
and STEVEN NELSON

US Central Command announced Friday that American forces conducted military strikes on Iran in a “powerful response” to an Iranian drone attack on a commercial ship transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian drone storage facilities and coastal radar sites were hit by US warplanes in retaliation for the Thursday attack on the M/V Ever Lovely, a Singapore-flagged cargo ship.

“The unwarranted aggression against commercial shipping by Iranian forces clearly violated the cease-fire,” read a statement released by CENTCOM. “Furthermore, Iran’s dangerous behavior undermined freedom of navigation as commerce increasingly flows through the vital international trade corridor.”

“CENTCOM forces continue to provide safe passage coordination and support to commercial vessels transiting the strait,” the statement continued. “The U.S. military remains present and vigilant to ensure all aspects of the agreement with Iran are adhered to, obeyed, and in full force and effect.”

‘Pick up the phone’

President Trump telegraphed the US military response to the attack on the Ever Lovely about an hour before CENTCOM’s announcement.

“You’ll find out,” Trump told reporters in the Oval Office when asked if Iran would face consequences for the cease-fire violation.

Vice President JD Vance warned that “violence will be met with violence.”

“Iran signed a cease-fire agreement. We have honored it. If they have disagreements about how the MOU is being applied, they can pick up the phone,” Vance wrote on X.

“But violence will be met with violence.”

The resumption of military operations comes just nine days after Trump and Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a memorandum of understanding to stop fighting and kick off 60 days of talks for a grand deal to end Tehran’s nuclear program.

The ramifications were not immediately clear within the US government, as much depends on whether the strikes begin a tit-for-tat cycle of escalation.

What about the MOU?

Iran’s early cease-fire violation and military attacks don’t bode well for the peace process ahead, a Trump administration source and a different person close to the White House said.

Another military source did not expect a full return to war and described the US as choosing non-escalatory targets — similar to retaliation operations for cease-fire violations before the MOU.

Trump said on April 8 that limited fighting could break out without upending a diplomatic deal, explaining that a Middle East cease-fire means “you’re shooting in a more moderate manner.”

Multiple reports indicated several explosions had been heard in the coastal city of Sirik, ahead of CENTCOM’s announcement.

In a statement shared by the state-run ISNA news agency, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps vowed that the “aggression will not go unanswered, and our response will be swift and decisive at a time and place of our choosing.”

“Any new foolishness will be met with a harsh response,” the IRGC warned.

Iran launched the attack drone at the Singaporean ship after warning vessels to ignore a new US-approved shipping route along the Omani coast and instead use a different Tehran-preferred route.

Israel, Lebanon sign deal for peace

Israel and Lebanon signed a framework peace agreement on Friday — icing out Iran and its proxy group Hezbollah — following four days of negotiations in Washington.

“Israel and Lebanon affirm the right of each state to exist in peace, and their mutual desire to live in security as neighboring sovereign states,” the document read. “Israel and Lebanon hereby declare their intent to conclusively end the conflict, address its underlying causes, and to therewith formally conclude any state of war between them.”

The agreement further allows Israel to stay in designated security areas in southern Lebanon until the Iranian terrorist proxy group Hezbollah is disarmed. It also enables the Lebanese Armed Forces to move into some of the IDF-occupied regions and begin taking control of them.

“This is a major blow to Iran. Iran has been trying to force us to withdraw from southern Lebanon through pressure,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an address to his nation. “In effect, Israel, Lebanon, and the United States are telling them: this is none of your business.”

“You have no role in Lebanon — not Iran, not Hezbollah, and not any terrorist organization,” he added.

Israeli ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter described the deal as a “performance-based trilateral framework agreement,” referencing Israel’s reciprocal pledge to leave southern Lebanon if progress is made on Hezbollah.

“Iran is out, Hezbollah is out, and the road to peace between Israel and Lebanon is in,” he said at a signing ceremony.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio described the agreement as a “first step” to returning Lebanon to its prior prosperity before Hezbollah moved in.

“It will take a lot of work and some time to get back to that point, but we believe today is the first step in that journey,” he said. *Caitlin Doornbos*

Slay kids sounded 'happy'

The four children found dead alongside their mother and grandmother in an upstate New York home appeared "happy" during their final conversation with their father, he revealed Friday.

Brady Harmon recalled the last time he spoke with his kids during a roughly 15-minute FaceTime call on June 7.

"They seemed like happy little kids," he told The Post.

Mechanicville police discovered the corpses of Harper Harmon, 13, Hudson Harmon, 11, and twins Gavin and Gracelynn Harmon, both 10, inside an apartment Tuesday, where investigators believe their grandmother fatally poisoned them and their mother, Sarah Myers, 44.

Harmon, 46, hadn't seen his kids since 2019 but had recently been granted two months of custody — which was set to begin July 1.

"I was supposed to be flying out on the 30th, gathering my kids and flying them home, then having them there for 60 days," said Harmon, who lives in Salt Lake City.

The children's maternal grandmother, Amy Steadman — whom police believe may have carried out the suspected mass poisoning — had lived with the family, he said. *Georgia Worrell*

Bikini-clad teen vanish

A 19-year-old Kentucky girl mysteriously vanished while partying in a bikini on a boat at a local lake, triggering a massive land and water search, according to reports.

Marly Kinney was partying on a pontoon boat with at least 10 friends on Grayson Lake in Carter County Wednesday afternoon when she went overboard to use the bathroom, with the group not initially realizing she was missing, the US Sun reported.

Authorities said the bikini-clad teen was last seen around 4 p.m. Wednesday, with her friends unable to say exactly where on the lake she jumped off the vessel. *_Anna Young*

To NYT, GOP babies are a political play

ANDREA PEYSER

Mother of all MAGA 'schemes'

BABY BUMP: From top left it's a White House baby boom with 2nd Lady Usha Vance (due next month), Katie Miller, the wife of deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller and Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt.

Storytime with the Second Lady / YouTube; X / @karolineleavitt; X / @KatieMiller

THIS isn't pregnancy. It's a political plot.

A full-blown, unhinged conspiracy orchestrated by the MAGA movement to take over the hearts, minds and uteruses of gestating people all over the nation, one bassinet, one burp, one stretch mark at a time.

The New York Times has cracked the code. It's Pulitzer time, baby!

In an investigation masquerading as a style piece, the Paper of Record published an unglued commentary, researched with the self-seriousness of Watergate revealing that a whopping three women connected to the White House are preggers.

At the same time!

That Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Katie Miller, the wife of White House deputy chief of staff for policy Stephen Miller and Second Lady Usha Vance should all be on the nest simultaneously isn't just a happy mini baby boom. It is — according to the Times — a pernicious "Handmaid's Tale"-style political plot promoting conservative child-making frenzy in an age of declining birthrates and the collapse of the Democratic Party in middle America.

'Fertility platform?'

It's a cautionary fable, a warning that the dreaded GOP's steady rate of reproduction amid a Democratic baby drought poses a dire threat to the nation.

According to the Gray Lady (now Gray Female-Identifying Newspaper), Republicans are planning to win support and ever-greater numbers of adherents by growing their own voters. One infant at a time.

It's all laid out in the piece entitled "The Politics and Power of the Pregnancy Image."

In it, Times chief fashion critic Vanessa Friedman writes: "That three such prominent women in the MAGA movement were pregnant at pretty much the same time was, indubitably, a coincidence."

Or maybe *not*.

"But" — there's always a "but" — "for an administration that has such an intuitive and strategic understanding of the power of aesthetics that an unspoken dress code in which men outfit themselves in the image of the president has developed, it has also become a telling one," Friedman froths.

"Together, the women have created a notably consistent, and somewhat paradigm-shifting, picture of the White House's family and fertility platform."

Fertility platform? Silly me. I thought the three lovelies just got themselves knocked up.

The writer also found leftist joy in taking aim at the body-hugging coral dress that the wife of Vice President JD Vance allegedly used to showcase her burgeoning bump as she grows the couple's fourth child, a boy, due next month. To The Times, it's not just discount maternity wear from Old Navy. The clothes represent Mrs. Vance's sinister method of broadcasting cuddly daddy vibes emanating from her hub ahead of November's midterm elections.

Propaganda tool

Friedman writes, I assume with a straight face, that Mrs. Vance's job as Second Lady "is also to represent and humanize the vice president."

"By spotlighting her pregnancy," Friedman spews, "she is doing exactly that."

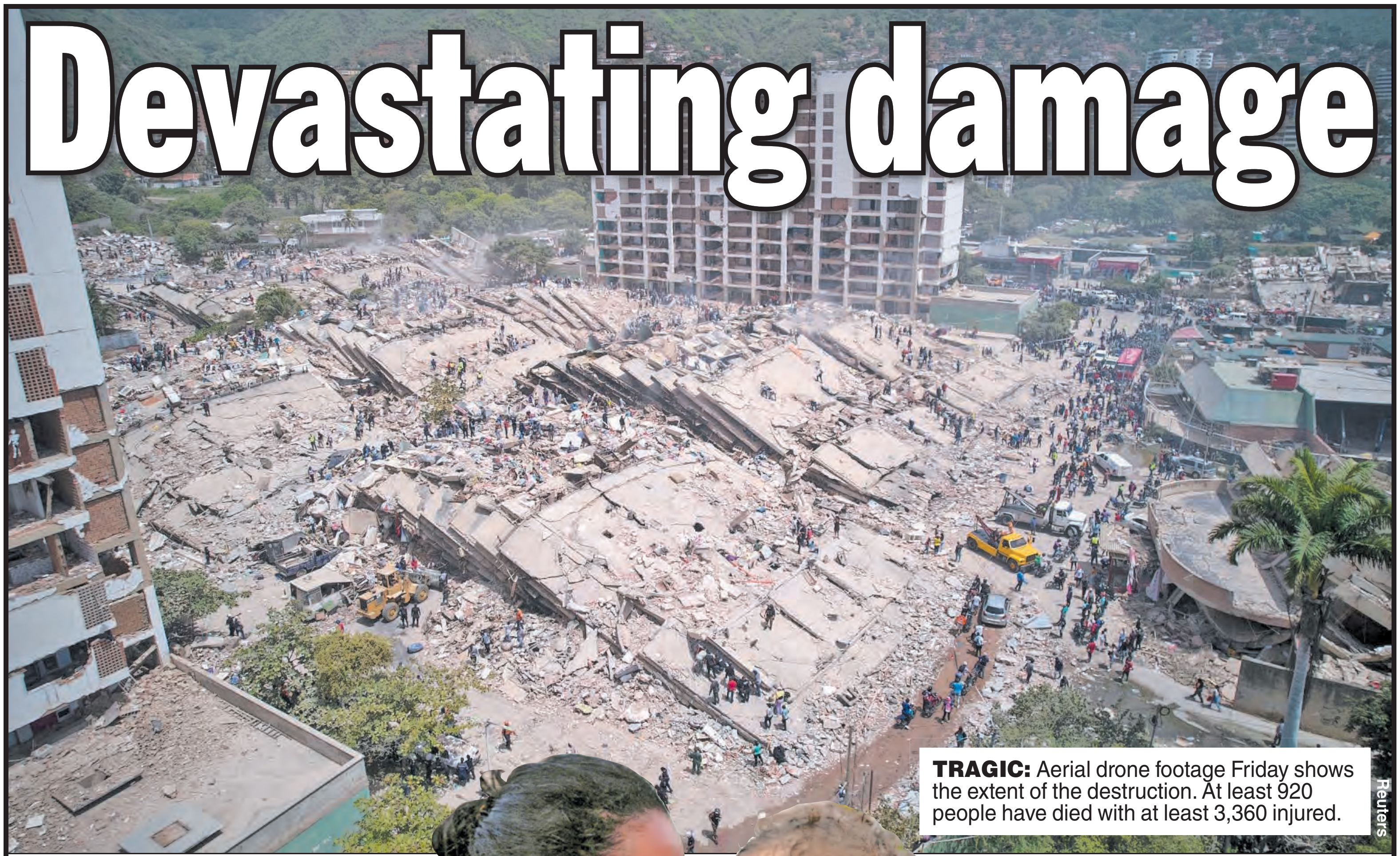
And there we are. To the Times, a bundle of joy isn't a miniature human, at least when it's birthed by Republicans. It's a propaganda tool.

Usha Vance took the hit on her motherhood with a classy smile.

She posted the receipt from her cowl-necked maternity get-up to X, writing, "Now that we know the political significance of my $8.75 coral maternity dress from Old Navy, can't wait to hear what the New York Times has to say about my elastic-waistband pants and compression socks!"

I can't wait to read the Times' take on the politics of onesies. And the paper's answer to this burning question: Breastfeeding — natural nutrition, or infantile indoctrination?

Devastating damage



TRAGIC: Aerial drone footage Friday shows the extent of the destruction. At least 920 people have died with at least 3,360 injured.

Reuters

Venezuela in ruins, death toll at 900+

By CHRIS NESI

Harrowing new aerial footage shows the quake-ravaged landscape of Venezuela as a massive international rescue effort gets underway amid a rapidly rising death toll, which officials said has topped 900.

The heartbreaking drone video features huge residential buildings reduced to rubble along the port city of La Guaira, one of the hardest-hit areas of the country, with before-and-after shots highlighting the devastation.

At least 920 have died and 3,360 were injured in the tragedy, authorities said, but the United States Geological Survey said there's a 40% chance the death toll could climb to 10,000 and a 30% chance it will eclipse 100,000.

President Trump pledged the US would provide whatever support Venezuela needed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, and the State Department soon thereafter announced it was sending $150 million in aid.

US Southern Command announced Friday that Urban Search and Rescue teams based in Los Angeles and Fairfax, Va., are being transported by two US Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft, while a US Air Force C-17 is delivering load-movement equipment to Caracas.

"US Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys will transport an airfield assessment team to Venezuela to support airport operations that were impacted near the earthquake epicenter," it added.

Meanwhile, USS Fort Lauderdale and USS Billings have already arrived in waters near Venezuela to help, according to SOUTHCOM. Three US Army CH-47 Chinooks and crews from Joint Task Force-Bravo are set to leave Honduras to support the transport of key personnel and supplies that are helping the South American country.

"The command's US Space Force component is providing satellite imagery of devastated areas to disaster relief planners in Venezuela to aid them in assessing where immediate life-saving and aid efforts are needed most and identifying what capability requests to prioritize," SOUTHCOM added.

Neighboring countries have also been pitching in for the rescue effort.

Venezuelan neighbor Colombia said it was sending humanitarian aid along with more than 60 rescuers and four dogs, while Chile has sent a specialized Urban Search and Rescue unit of its fire department, Reuters reports.

El Salvador has dispatched some 300 rescuers and paramedics, and is sending 50 metric tons of humanitarian aid to the country. Panama has said it will send a rescue mission to Venezuela.

Reuters reports the Dominican Republic sent a rescue team, and that Mexico offered up 250 military rescue personnel, five rescue dogs, four aircraft, a drone, rescue equipment and medical supplies.

Ex-Met Mejia 'saved by the elevator'

Former Mets pitcher Jenrry Mejia credited "divine intervention" for saving his life when his elevator brought him to the wrong floor inside his Venezuela hotel moments before the building collapsed during a pair of earthquakes that left over 900 people dead.

Mejia, 36, wrapped up his gym session at the Hotel Eduards in La Guaira and was heading back to his room as the quakes struck 39 seconds apart, the pitcher told Dominican sports radio show "Mañana Deportiva" ("Morning Sports"), Diario Libre reported.

"I had pressed No. 6, which was where my floor was," he said. "But . . . I think it was God because instead of going up, it went down to the basement.

"The door opened directly into the lobby," added Mejia, who called it "divine intervention" that brought him out of the hotel 40 seconds before it crumbled.

Nicholas McEntyre

TYLER ROBINSON
No break for suspect.

Kirk slay 'death penalty'

Accused Charlie Kirk assassin Tyler Robinson will still face the death penalty — despite a judge on Friday ruling that prosecutors violated a gag order, throwing the case into chaos.

Utah Judge Tony Graf found prosecutor Christopher Ballard in civil contempt for chatting to media outlets about Robinson's case — but refused to take the death penalty off the table, as the defense requested.

Robinson's team claimed prosecutors needed to be sanctioned after they responded to a misleading defense filing suggesting the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives determined the bullet in the gun Robinson allegedly used to shoot the conservative podcaster didn't match the round found in Kirk's body.

Those court papers by Robinson's lawyers sparked online conspiracy theories about how the conservative activist died.

Priscilla DeGregory

'Rowdy' flyer dies on plane

A dad of three died after he allegedly attacked a fellow passenger and a flight attendant and was restrained during a midair outburst aboard his UK-bound flight.

Callum Kerr, 35, was accused of "acting aggressively" toward Jet2 cabin staff and passengers before his flight landed at Manchester Airport on Monday morning, according to Greater Manchester Police.

Kerr was restrained at the rear of the plane and was unresponsive when police cuffed him. *Adam Silverstein*

‘No need to Knick a bin’

The city is trashing the Knicks litterbug.

The Sanitation Department is raffling off five Knicks-themed trash cans to celebrate the team’s NBA Finals win — and they’ve taken a not-so-subtle dig at the notorious JPMorgan executive who went viral for stealing one off the parade route.

“No Need to Knick a Bin,” the department said in an ad for the contest. “The DSNY is giving away 5 Commemorative Knicks-Themed Litter Baskets.”

Unlike the “incredibly stupid” fan, the five lucky winners won’t need to grab the full-sized blue-and-orange baskets off the street, dump litter across the sidewalk and lug it home on the subway.

“Fouling up our sidewalks and stealing public property should always be out of bounds in New York City,” said DSNY Commissioner Gregory Anderson. “There is no need to lift bins off the street. DSNY is thrilled to turn over five brand-new litter baskets to lucky Knicks fans, the same heavy baskets we use on the streets. Continue celebrating our championship team by going online today to enter — and leave the basket-tipping to New York’s Strongest.”

Katherine Donlevy

*Giraff*in’ a ball on run

The viral giraffe who vanished from a Texas ranch two weeks ago was spotted looking “fat and happy” just miles from her home during her stint on the lam, authorities announced Friday.

Sheriff Nathan T. Johnson told News4 San Antonio that Gracie the giraffe had a “catch me if you can sucker’s attitude” when she was located during an aerial search.

Gracie’s owner, 72-year-old Vick Jones, had linked up with an aviation business to look for the missing mammal, the Real County Sheriff’s Office wrote in a Friday morning update.

Officials are coordinating with the owner’s vet to sedate Gracie for transport to the ranch.

Daniel Cody

STICK THAT IN YOUR PIPE!

Bathroom battle led to ‘fraud findings’

WAITING GAME: Angelo Chan has been fighting for five years to get the water turned on in one of the three bathrooms inside his $5.2 million Fifth Ave co-op. He has since filed a second lawsuit.

By JOYCE COHEN

It’s a stinker. A fight over a bathroom waste pipe has exploded into allegations of putrid dealings at a storied Manhattan co-op.

When Angelo Chan and husband Frederick Wertheim spent $5.2 million for their home in a Fifth Avenue co-op in 2018 — where Martha Stewart owns a pied-à-terre — they envisioned having three luxurious bathrooms after renovating their 2,500-square-foot unit.

But for five years, they’ve been making do with just one — due to a lengthy impasse over the location of a bathroom pipe that has devolved into a vicious court battle, allegations of fraud and kept the water to the couple’s two other bathrooms turned off.

While investigating the pipe issue — namely, the location of a new pipe to drain bathroom waste — their attorney Steven Sladkus claims to have discovered something far smellier.

Since 2020, the building — 907 Fifth Ave. — has failed to produce audited financial documents, alleges a lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court earlier this month. The lawsuit further alleges that when pressed to produce the documents, it produced fakes.

‘Ongoing litigation’

The two men are suing the building’s board of directors for fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

According to court papers in the first lawsuit, filed five years ago, a kitchen pipe “was penetrated with a fastener during installation of drywall,” causing major water damage in the apartment downstairs, occupied by board member Andrew Crisses and his wife, Abby, residents since 2003. Several years later combined their unit with an adjacent one.

After that, the parties began arguing over the location of a different pipe, this one draining bathroom waste. The bathroom pipe could be routed through the ceiling of the Crisses’ unit downstairs, replacing the original pipe, which would require breaking into the Crisses’ ceiling. Or it could be situated on the floor of the Chan-Wertheim unit upstairs, which would necessitate raising the floor of their L-shaped hallway, with a step up and a step down.

As the battle raged on, Sladkus sought copies of the building’s audited financial statements. When the documents arrived, they allegedly contained “glaring inconsistencies and oddities,” according to the complaint, and “failed to disclose ongoing litigation.”

Though building insurance covered 45% of the legal fees, one line item for legal fees was blank.

Numbers contained in the documents — which were headed with different versions of the accounting firm Marks Paneth’s logo — also allegedly included lower maintenance income than reported in the building’s budget documents.

‘Fraudulent docs’

The documents appeared to be fake, according to CBIZ, which bought Marks Paneth. “Marks Paneth did not issue the reports,” CBIZ’s general counsel wrote in an email. “The reports appear to be fraudulent, with forged signatures and letterhead.”

In a statement to The Post, a spokesperson for the co-op board wrote: “This lawsuit is a baseless stunt by plaintiffs and their counsel, who filed it despite knowing that its core allegations are false.

The statement further says that the managing agent from Brown Harris Stevens was responsible for the documents in question.

The management company, Brown Harris Stevens, declined to comment, as did the Crisses’ lawyer.

MTA worker badly beaten on platform

An on-duty MTA employee was beaten by a maniac in a white hoodie and matching sweatpants after he asked him to quit smoking inside a Queens subway station Wednesday night, cops and the Transit Worker’s Union said.

The train operator, 51, was on the southbound E-train platform inside the 71st Ave. subway station in Forest Hills around 10:00 p.m., when the argument began, according to police and Transport Workers Union Local 100 President John Chiarello.

The assailant then began to viciously attack the MTA employee, socking him multiple times in the face before fleeing the scene on an outbound train, cops said.

The operator suffered a fractured finger and a split lip, according to Chiarello.

EMS rushed the worker to NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, where he is in stable condition, according to authorities.

“At what point do others who have the power to make change step in?” Chiarello said in a statement.

The attacker is still in the wind, police said Friday.

David DeTurris

KYIV DRONE BLITZ

FIERY DELIVERY: A truck at a supply depot burns as Russia said it intercepted 660 Ukrainian drones in a huge overnight attack across 12 regions Friday, including Moscow and its environs, St. Petersburg and Crimea.

Hardest hit on Russia

@FedorovMykhailo/X

By ALEX OLIVEIRA

Ukraine launched its heaviest drone attack on Russian territory since the war began, with hundreds of drones exploding across the Russian heartland and occupied territory.

At least 660 Ukrainian drones were downed by Russian defenses Thursday night into Friday, Russia's Defense Ministry reported, though it remains unclear how many were actually fired.

Ukraine's previous record involved 556 drones on May 17.

At least 12 regions were targeted in the attack, including Moscow and the surrounding area, St. Petersburg, Crimea and Russian-occupied territory on the war's eastern front.

A hydroelectric plant and a chemical plant were reportedly damaged in the Tula region south of Moscow — with the chemical plant being a key piece of Russia's explosives infrastructure, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky previously said.

At least two military vessels were also hit in Crimea — which Russia has held since 2014 — along with a series of air defense systems in Crimea's eastern Kerch region, according to CBS News.

The full extent of the wider attack's damage remains unclear, however, as Russia typically conceals information about the reality of Ukraine's successes.

But the attacks followed Zelensky's promise earlier this week to launch "a 40-day influence operation" with the goal of "compelling [Russia] to end the war."

Crimea damage

That vow was accompanied by days of other Ukrainian attacks which caused significant damage to Russia's war infrastructure.

A series of satellite communications systems near Moscow were damaged Sunday, while fuel and power supplies were attacked in Crimea, Al Jazeera reported.

Several electrical plants were also damaged across Crimea on Wednesday.

A state of emergency was declared by Russian leaders in Crimea over the attacks — with Russian-installed governor Sergey Aksyonov acknowledging his defense capabilities were limited.

"There are no air defense systems in the world that are absolutely perfect in terms of security and effectiveness," Aksyonov said in a social media post.

But Russia's assault on Ukraine also continued.

At least two civilians were killed and seven injured by Russian strikes on Kharkiv Thursday after Russia launched a barrage of drones and guided bombs on 16 towns.

Ukrainian defenses managed to stop 174 out of 186 Russian drones launched in the attack.

Other barrages hit the capital region in Kyiv, with electrical systems, houses and civilian buildings also struck.

Despite Ukraine's successes, the back and forth highlighted the state of near-stalemate the more than four-year war has settled into.

Zelensky expressed optimism this week about promises of support he got at the June G7 summit, while a NATO summit in July could also yield further support for Ukraine from western powers.

But rumors have also swirled that Russia is pressuring Belarus to allow its Ukraine-bordering territory to be used to open more fronts in the war.

Belarus has denied the claims.

With Wires

Ex held in slay of diplomat

A US diplomat found murdered in a luxury Myanmar hotel was allegedly stabbed in the head and neck by his ex-wife, who could now face the death penalty on murder charges.

Daniel Riva, a 43-year-old New York native who specialized in tackling international organized crime, was found dead last month at the Sakura Residence & Hotel, a mile from his office at the US Embassy in Yangon.

His ex-wife, Pavinee Supasirivisan, was arrested on murder charges soon after, local authorities said.

If convicted, she faces at least 10 years in prison and possibly the death penalty.

The Thai national appeared in court on Tuesday accused of also violating Myanmar's immigration code, which applies to any foreign national who commits a crime there. She will stand trial on that charge, with a possible sentence of five years in prison, before facing the murder charge.

Riva, from East Norwich, LI, tied the knot with Supasirivisan, a pastry chef, in June 2018, the Times of London reported. It was unclear when they separated.

Riva worked in Suriname and then East Timor before being stationed in Yangon.

Jared Downing, Chris Bradford, Wires

Ga. teacher kid-sex rap

A Georgia high school science teacher who was allegedly moonlighting on OnlyFans is facing 27 charges for allegedly having sex with at least seven students.

Maris Nichols, 25, appeared in court for the first time Thursday after being indicted by a grand jury over the string of alleged offenses, WXIA TV reported.

The now-suspended Alexander HS teacher was arrested twice last month as fresh accusers came forward after the initial complaint.

The ages of her victims have not been revealed, but at least two were younger than 16, WSB TV reported.

Chris Bradford

Note claims Guthrie 'kidnap video'

TMZ received another note claiming to know the identities of Nancy Guthrie's kidnappers — insisting the author has a video of one of the "main" goons and the 84-year-old on the "day that was probably her last," the outlet revealed Friday.

The chilling new email was reportedly sent from the same mystery person who previously demanded one bitcoin in exchange for information related to Guthrie's disappearance.

"I have a phone stashed in a secure location guaranteeing both the information it stores and the safety of the phone," the person behind the note wrote, according to TMZ.

"What it contains is my definition of delivering them on a silver platter, a short video of the main guy with Nancy the day that was probably her last, pictures of both involved, names and addresses and age."

The mystery sender claimed the phone is in a "location easy to access if you know where it is," and said he would cough up the password for one bitcoin.

The blackmailer also claimed there were two kidnappers behind Guthrie's abduction from her Arizona home.

TMZ said it responded to the note by telling the sender to pass along a screen grab of Guthrie to verify the disturbing claim.

Anna Young

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Hizzoner's free to party!

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THEY were simpler times! There was a heartwarming sense of familiarity Thursday night: Amid a breathtaking corruption scandal, **Eric Adams** was out boogying.

As his former chief enforcer, **Frank Carone**, was doin' the Handcuff Shuffle, we're told that Adams — who's been eerily off the party scene of late — was having a night on the town with **Boy George**, **Bari Weiss**, **Dionne Warwick** and more at Tablet's Sinai Awards.

Feds arrested Carone on Wednesday, claiming in an indictment that while he was serving as Adams' chief of staff in 2022, he received $120,000 in bribes. He pleaded not guilty.

But at the bash at Casa Cipriani the next night, we're told Adams was in high spirits, taking selfies and greeting well-wishers.

The Sinai Awards are Tablet magazine's annual celebration honoring people "whose work has made an outsize contribution to culture, public discourse, American society, Jewish life or all of the above."

(The former mayor has been very outspoken against antisemitism in New York City.)

The event was hosted by the magazine's Editor-in-Chief **Alana Newhouse**, and recipients of the awards included Warwick; Adm. **Brad Cooper**, who is the commander of the United States Central Command; **Larry Sanger**, a co-founder of Wikipedia; **Oliya Scootercaster**, founder of Freedom News TV; **Sam Levinson**, the creator of "Euphoria"; and the Iranian protester known as "**Morticia Addams**," who became famous for lighting a cigarette with a burning image of the late ayatollah.

And Adams wasn't the only guest who's been in the news.

On the day of the awards, Sanger — who left Wikipedia some 20 years ago — was banned from editing the encyclopedia after being accused of trying to sway internal votes by canvassing Wikipedia outsiders. Sanger pushed back against the canvassing charges.

A 'mixed' blessing

AMAL Clooney says it was "easier" to navigate her life and career before her high-profile marriage to **George Clooney**. "It was easier when I could decide what kind of exposure I got," the human rights attorney said at a Cartier Dialogues event in Bangkok. "I used to have my work life and my personal life, and . . . I was able to not have them mix. And then I got married and that changed quite a lot," she said. "At first I was kind of conscious of that one-dimensional view," but, "ultimately, if you're good at what you do, that is going to shine through or not." Amal was a top flight human rights lawyer when she met the actor. They got married in 2014.

Ticked off model

BELLA Hadid is navigating "severe isolation and depression" while battling chronic illness. The model (above), who was diagnosed with Lyme disease as a teenager, opened up about her mental health "hardships." "I wish it wasn't so intimidating and difficult to explain the pain/exhaustion/fatigue/anxiety/brain fog/insecurities that come with chronic illness," she wrote. Hadid, who was "out of breath walking to the kitchen," also said her "last two" brain cells were "beefing with each other." She then apologized for "worrying" anyone with her "jarring" reality.

Well, we know what they are *not* talking about. "Fight Club" co-stars Ed Norton (left) and Brad Pitt attend the US vs. Turkey World Cup game in LA.

Fox Sports

Legal issues choc'd up to Feastables turnover

YET another dispute is brewing between **Jimmy Donaldson**, aka MrBeast, and a clutch of his investors. This time, the issues center on Feastables, Donaldson's chocolate and snack brand that is part of his holding company, Beast Industries, valued at close to $5 billion. A handful of Feastable investors have grown fed up with how the YouTube sensation has allegedly handled the brand, which launched in 2022. Page Six has learned that the irate backers are lawyering up and appear ready to issue a legal challenge over what sources deem to be Donaldson's alleged contract breaches. These purported breaches center on a range of issues, including the use and exclusivity of his image and likeness. A source close to Donaldson pushed back on the notion of any wrongdoing, blaming the dispute on a changeover of representation that occurred a couple of years ago. "Jimmy didn't make these deals, his previous managers did, and it is pretty rich that it's coming up right now," said the source. The source didn't dispute that the brand has been challenged, but said that hiring **Jeff Housenbold** in 2024 as president and CEO of Beast Industries and **Damien Atkins** as chief legal officer has helped boost the company. "The problems they've had were things that came from the people who were there before," said an insider. The YouTube pioneer is worth a reported $2.6 billion.

LA gets Goopy

WE'RE hearing buzz around LA that Goop Kitchen is opening an actual restaurant. The location would be somewhere around La Brea Avenue, sources say, but details on the planned Goop eatery are otherwise, so far, scarce. **Gwyneth Paltrow**'s booming takeout biz recently expanded to NYC, which is its first market outside California after also launching in the Bay Area, with plans to open in San Diego. But all those Goop spots are ghost kitchens, not places where patrons can actually dine in. A rep for the brand said there's nothing to confirm as of now. Either way, it's unclear if a Goop in-person eatery would serve a different menu from the brand's tried-and-true, gluten-free staples.

Ex marks the spot

ARIANA Grande has been spotted hanging out with ex **Ricky Álvarez**, weeks after news of her split from **Ethan Slater**. In photos circulating via social media, the "Thank U, Next" singer (above) is at an Austin, Texas, restaurant Thursday, smiling while chatting with her former boyfriend. However, a source told TMZ that Grande — who is in the city for her "Eternal Sunshine" tour — was simply hanging out with friends for her 33rd birthday and there "is nothing romantic between Ariana and Ricky this time around." A spy told the outlet the "Wicked" star was seen snapping pics with fans, too. A rep for Grande did not respond to Page Six's request for comment.

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RH London’s calling chic **Margot Robbie** to mingle at the furniture biz’s new location.

Page Six®

Richie concerts cut

LIONEL Richie’s next two concerts have been canceled in the wake of his onstage dizzy spell and subsequent hospitalization. Live Nation Chicago announced via Instagram on Thursday that the 77-year-old singer would not take the stage yesterday in Chicago and today in Columbus, Ohio. “Under advisement by doctors to rest and return to full health, Lionel Richie has postponed his next two shows,” the post read. It claimed Richie and his Sing a Song All Night Long tour co-headliner, Earth, Wind & Fire, will perform on Tuesday in Pittsburgh. “Lionel is heartbroken to postpone these two shows and cannot wait to be back performing for his fans,” the post read. Richie has yet to publicly comment on his health scare. He was singing “Dancing on the Ceiling” Wednesday night in St. Paul, Minn., when he was forced to sit down multiple times due to dizziness before leaving the stage. The axed performance marked the opening night of his 26-city tour.

Michael Simon/Getty Images

Alix Earle is a tall drink of, well, not water, as she struts Gotham with her SipMargs canned cocktail.

Courting trouble with Grandma Bush

JENNA Bush Hager detailed how her late grandmother — former First Lady Barbara Bush — once called her out in a letter for unsportsmanlike conduct. “I’m competitive, and I like performance around competition,” the anchor said on Thursday’s episode of “Today with Jenna & Sheinelle.” During a family tennis match, Bush Hager was “doing the worm and yelling, ‘Not today!’ ” At the time, she was a “full adult.” Bush Hager admitted, “I like to heckle, OK?” and noted, “My dad, [former president **George W. Bush**], thought it was very funny and he’d be like, ‘That’s my girl!’ ” While the journalist’s father, 79, was amused, both her grandmother and late grandfather — former President George H.W. Bush — were not. “My grandfather really believed in sportsmanship, like being really kind and humble and all those things,” she recalled to co-host **Sheinelle Jones**, 48. “I think my . . . behavior rubbed my grandmother the wrong way, so she wrote me a letter. The best part is that she addressed it to me and my dad,” she said. “She was like, ‘That behavior on the tennis court was not becoming. And George, you shouldn’t have cheered her on, either.’ ” Bush Hager, 44, added, “And then it said, ‘P.S. Throw this letter away and don’t tell anybody about it.’ ” As the NBC anchor cheekily stated: “Oops!” Bush Hager has never shied away from airing her hilarious family stories while live on air. Last month, the mother of three — **Mila**, 13, **Poppy**, 10, and **Hal**, 6 — said her children with husband **Henry Chase Hager** “call me Biggie . . . And I’m like, ‘Excuse me?’ They’re like, ‘Whatever, Biggie!’ ”

Fashionably late toast to design debut

NATASHA Lyonne, **Hari Nef**, “Severance” stars **Tramell Tillman** and **Britt Lower**, **Lux Pascal** and more toasted Balmain’s new creative director, **Antonin Tron**, at Bridges in Chinatown this week. The chic fête celebrated Tron’s runway debut in March during Paris fashion week. “The goal was to couple the brand with the idea of the New York woman. All the different women here tonight really reflect the many levels and layers of both this city and Balmain,” he told Vogue.

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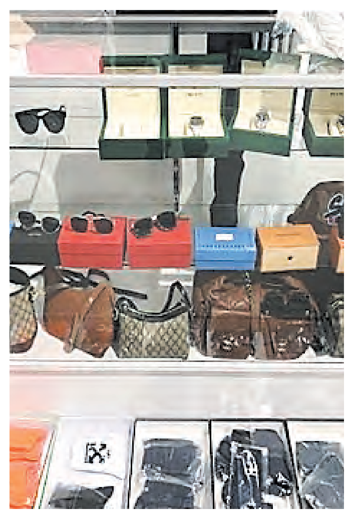

NYPD (2)

HEY, KNOCK IT OFF! In a bid to make the area safer, the NYPD raided Canal Street on Thursday and seized $151M in knockoff goods that were loaded into garbage bags and trucked off.

By JOE MARINO
and DAVID DETURRIS

Cops seize $151M in phony merch

The NYPD carried out another Canal Street raid on Thursday — seizing a whopping $151 million worth of knockoff Rolexes, fake fragrances, bootleg Knicks jerseys and other phony goods peddled on the infamous strip.

Cops swarmed the Lower Manhattan stretch as part of an ongoing crackdown against illegal vendors that cramp the sidewalks, leading to quality of life complaints from locals.

Video of the 11:30 a.m. sweep shows New York's Finest hauling out dozens of garbage bags filled with bogus merch along Canal Street, known as a hotspot for counterfeiters.

Beside the fake watches, jerseys and fragrances, cops also grabbed sunglasses, bags and Labubu dolls, the NYPD said.

The takedowns weren't just limited to Canal Street.

Raids against bootlegging operations on Hester, Mulberry and West 27th Streets in Manhattan took place the same day.

'Improve public safety'

Cops also recovered $145,000 in cash during the sweep, the NYPD said.

A total of 17 people were cuffed and charged with trademark counterfeiting — a felony, police said.

The raids in Lower Manhattan were the most recent in the department's ongoing crusade to address quality of life concerns against counterfeiting and illegal vending in the neighborhood.

"In response to complaints by local elected officials and community members regarding the proliferation of illegal street vending in lower Manhattan, particularly along Canal Street, the department has continued to take action to hold illegal vendors accountable and improve public safety conditions along those corridors," an NYPD spokesperson said.

Concerns about illegal vending and counterfeit goods have been a longtime concern of many in Lower Manhattan, from residents and local business owners, and has garnered the attention of the NYPD and local pols.

"Our community members deserve safe streets, and seeing it firsthand is critical in finding a solution," Assemblymember Grace Lee said in an X post, which highlighted a walkthrough of the problematic corridor with Councilmember Christopher Marte and the NYPD.

Illegal vendors along Canal Street and Broadway were targeted in five operations cops pulled off between May 20 and June 12, police said.

Cops seized 1,100 bags and other counterfeit property — estimated to be worth more than $100 million dollars if they were real + from peddlers during that operation.

TERRION ARNOLD
Accused of revenge plot.

NFLer 'set up beating'

Detroit Lions cornerback Terrion Arnold allegedly ordered two women to lure a man he believed had stolen from him to a home with the promise of "sexual relations," according to a police affidavit filed in court.

Arnold, 23 — who is accused of being the mastermind of the February plot — was allegedly fed a livestream of the vicious beatdown of the victims whom he accused of robbing his Florida Airbnb of more than $250,000 worth of property.

Arnold allegedly told his two female co-defendants — who were 18 and 19 at the time — to invite one of the victims over to their Tampa apartment for a romp with one of them, according to the affidavit, which was obtained by The Post.

Once inside the apartment, two of Arnold's co-defendants allegedly popped out of the closet and began beating two of the victims while the third waited in a car outside.

One of the women allegedly livestreamed the beating, which was shared with Arnold and two others who were on their way to the apartment from Tallahassee, according to the document. *Patrick Reilly*

'Goal' of showing off Texas

They came for the World Cup — but instead got a "redneck crash course" — deep in the heart of Texas.

A group of international soccer tourists fell head over boots for America after a Texas man invited them to his 30-acre ranch for a two-day tour of four-wheeling, two-stepping and a trip to Buc-ee's, according to CBS Evening News.

Drew Haas, of South Central Texas, hosted two couples visiting from Poland and France, giving them a muddy, off-road taste of his home state while World Cup fever sweeps across the US.

Haas (right) said he wanted to show the visitors "my Texas" — the version of America he knows and loves.

The result was kind of a redneck cultural exchange, complete with pickup trucks tearing through the muck, cowboy dancing lessons and a pilgrimage to Buc-ee's, the beloved Texas-sized gas station chain, with 98 gas pumps and aisles of pure roadside Americana. *Kevin Barr*

CBS NEWS

Hungary hosp 'cannibal'

A twisted Hungarian hospital worker allegedly stole and stockpiled human remains from his workplace and abandoned cemeteries — and admitted to eating some of them.

The 30-year-old man from Budapest was arrested by Hungary's National Bureau of Investigation on suspicion of the illegal use of human remains last week, after investigators allegedly uncovered a trove of body parts inside his apartment, national police said in a statement.

Inside the house or horrors was a prepared human face, facial skin, a lower leg, a brain, a hand, skulls, a heart in a jar and bones stuffed in a suitcase, cops alleged.

Forensic experts are working to determine whether the heart belongs to a human or an animal. *Zoe Hussain*

Swastika carved on UES car

A hateful vandal carved a swastika onto the hood of a parked car on the Upper East Side this week — a disturbing act being investigated as a hate crime, potentially linked to an Israeli flag displayed in the back seat.

The owner of the car, a 56-year-old woman, discovered the antisemitic vandalism on Friday morning, three days after parking on East 85th Street near First Avenue, cops said.

The driver had an Israeli flag inside the car, which may be connected to the vile attack, the Daily News reported.

Elected officials, including Mayor Mamdani, condemned the vandalism.

"The swastika carved into a car on the Upper East Side is a despicable act of antisemitism," Mamdani wrote on X. "It is a hateful attack of intimidation on our Jewish neighbors and on the values that make our city what it is."

City Council Speaker Julie Menin also weighed in.

"This horrific, antisemitic symbol continues to appear across our city," Menin wrote on X. "Sadly, this isn't the first time it's been discovered in my district."

The incident comes amid a troubling trend of rising hate crimes in the city. In May alone, hate crimes skyrocketed by 74.4 % — from 39 to 68 — compared with the same month last year, according to the NYPD.

More than 60% of the attacks last month were classified as anti-Jewish. *Daniel Cody*

Alluring Millie Bobby Brown gives off the aura of a princess in a Cinderella-inspired light blue Galia Lahav gown at the Netflix premiere of "Enola Holmes 3," in which the 22-year-old star reprises her role as Sherlock's younger sister.

Lovely Millie all 'gown' up

M10S/TheNews2/INSTARimages

KEEPING SHARKS AT BAY

Lifeguard piloting drones

Getty Images

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

These guys are keeping some unwelcome guests away from the Fourth of July party.

A surge of sharks is making its annual pilgrimage to New York's beaches — but drones in the sky are working hard to stop the big fish from feasting on swimmers.

The advanced technology has been hovering above the coast and monitoring the prehistoric predators as they increasingly frequent shores from Rockaway Beach to Montauk.

"If you look, you shall find. We're using that technology in the name of public safety to help prevent something from happening. The likelihood is really, really slim, but it can happen," said Cary Epstein, a lifeguard supervisor who pilots drones at Jones Beach.

"Don't be confused — people need to know that there is a generic risk of going in the ocean. Usually, people don't get eaten by sharks, but on occasion, accidents do happen and things do happen. You are entering their house."

Shark bites have plummeted since the bloody summers of 2022 and 2023 — during which there were 13 reported encounters on the south shore, including five in a particularly gory three-week period.

That scary number dropped to just one incident last summer — with the victim suffering such minor injuries that it took a full-fledged investigation to determine that the cuts similar to one gained from "stepping on a sharp shell" actually came from a juvenile tiger shark, said Epstein.

The shrinking could be thanks to the Empire State seriously beefing up its anti-shark monitoring tools in recent years, with Gov. Hochul this year upping Long Island's fleet to 46 drones and 67 drone operators.

'Needle in a haystack'

Epstein (above) and his crew send the tiny aircraft to the skies a minimum of three times per day.

Since spotting an actual shark in the murky waters is like "looking for a needle in a haystack," operators are instead trying to locate large, swirling pods of bunker fish, a favorite shark delicacy, which are a clear indicator the predators may be nearby.

Once the swarms of bait fish are spotted, lifeguards will move bathers away from the potential feeding frenzy and keep the area clear until it has moved.

"The reality is the sharks are not swimming to the beaches because they know it's July Fourth weekend and they're looking for a human snack . . . If there's a big pod of bunker and it's close to the swimming area and if you happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and a shark is having a buffet — you could accidentally get in the way," explained Epstein.

‘All have opportunity’

American Dreamers

Through July 4, The Post, in conjunction with the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, is featuring US citizens explaining what the American dream means to them in 2026 — including Marla Blow, CEO and president of the Skoll Foundation.

Living life grandma wouldn’t recognize

Bloomberg via Getty Images

GOOD WITH NUMBERS: Marla Blow went from the Ivy League to financial services to leading a nonprofit aimed at reducing poverty.

I walked around in the community I lived in and . . . I thought, I don’t think people are making good financial decisions. I [was] 15, or 17, but that was just my observation.

And I thought, I’m good with numbers and I think I’m good with people. And I think I can help people make better financial decisions . . .

That came sort of out of nowhere. I got to [the University of Pennsylvania] and I got a job in student financial services. And I worked in the student aid, student loan disbursements, the bursar’s office at the school. And I worked in financial services at Penn my entire four years . . . that was my work study job the whole time I was there.

Career start

And then I worked in financial services for a long part of my career after that.

Both of my grandmothers spent their lives as domestic workers. They picked cotton. My mother said to me once — I was complaining about something or I wasn’t happy about something — the life you live would have been unfathomable to your grandmother. That your big issue was trying to find somebody to give you millions of dollars to go and build a business. This is the American dream.

It doesn’t get any better than that. That was not available to my grandmother. It wouldn’t have been in her worldview . . . and that we can make that kind of journey is what it’s all about,

We all have the opportunity through . . . access to capital to make our lives work. And that’s at a micro level, on a day-to-day basis — just to have the capital you need to pay your daily bills and provide for the things you need — and at the very loftiest of levels. Even if you do make a mistake, it does not need to be fatal. You can recover from that mistake. You can have another chance.

The American Dream Video Project showcases real stories that illuminate pathways to opportunity. Featured at the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD), this series is part of the Center’s celebration of America’s 250th anniversary. MCAAD is Washington, DC’s newest cultural institution, offering interactive exhibits and stories about achieving the American Dream. For more information, visit mcaad.org.

‘Abortion pressure’ then ‘slay’

Former college football star Blaise Taylor allegedly pressured his pregnant girlfriend to get an abortion — before poisoning her and their unborn baby to death, jurors heard at his double-murder trial this week.

The 30-year-old ex-Arkansas State player faces four counts of murder after prosecutors say he intentionally gave Jade Benning a fatal dose of cocaine in her Tennessee apartment on Feb. 25, 2023 — killing her and their unborn daughter.

Benning, who was five months pregnant when she died, had previously sent a chilling text message to a close female friend that appeared to reference Taylor’s alleged push for her to end the pregnancy.

“I’m going to tell him today that I’m not having the abortion . . . so he can just get it out of his head,” the message stated.

Georgia Worrell

Post Weather Report

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Saturday

Today: Rain tapering to a couple of showers. High 72 to 78.

Tonight: Partly cloudy and humid. Low 64 to 70.

Sunday

Tomorrow: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 80 to 86.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 65 to 71.

Monday

Mostly sunny. High 84 to 90.

Evening
Clear. Low 67 to 73.

Tuesday

A heavy t-storm. High 86 to 92.

Evening
T-storm possible. Low 69 to 75.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

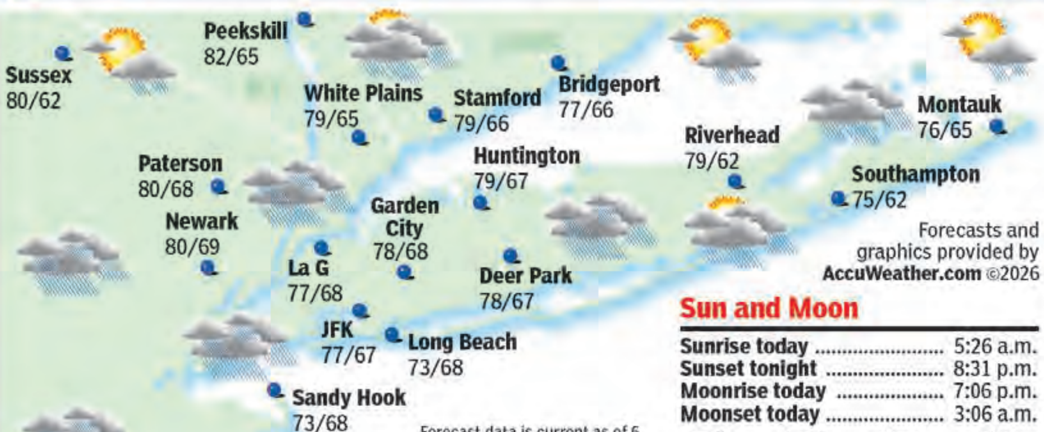
Temperature
High: 79, Low: 66, Mean: 73

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -3 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.27", Month: 3.25",
Year: 17.68", Normal year to date: 23.20"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 8
Total for the month (normal) 216 (184)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 354 (265)
Last year to date 285
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 74
UV index (for Sat.) .... 3 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 84%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Trees, Grasses, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sat.) ....Moderate


Peekskill 82/65
Sussex 80/62
White Plains 79/65
Stamford 79/66
Bridgeport 77/66
Montauk 76/65
Riverhead 79/62
Huntington 79/67
Southampton 75/62
Paterson 80/68
Garden City 78/68
Newark 80/69
La G 77/68
Deer Park 78/67
JFK 77/67
Long Beach 73/68
Sandy Hook 73/68
Asbury Park 74/67
Manasquan 76/67
Toms River 77/66
Long Beach 73/68
Atlantic City 77/68
Ocean City 74/69

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

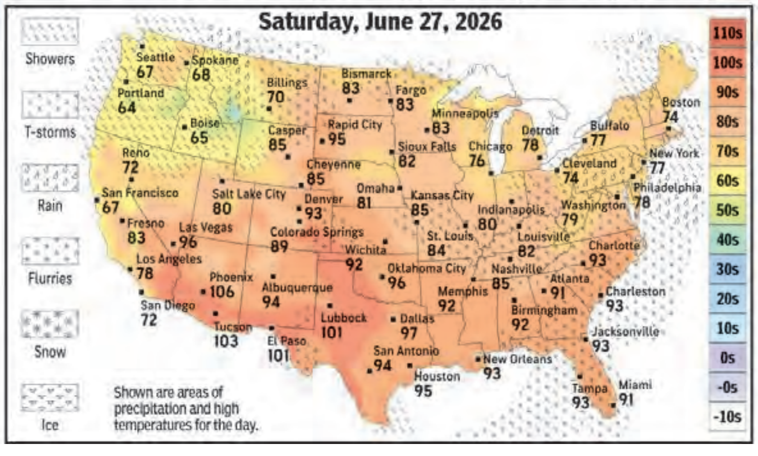
Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): s-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:31 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 7:06 p.m.
Moonset today .... 3:06 a.m.

Full
Last
New
First
June 29
July 7
July 14
July 21


Saturday, June 27, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 67
Spokane 68
Portland 64
Billings 70
Bismarck 83
Fargo 83
Boise 65
Casper 85
Rapid City 95
Minneapolis 83
Sioux Falls 82
Chicago 76
Detroit 78
Buffalo 77
Boston 74
New York 77
Reno 72
Cheyenne 85
Cleveland 74
Philadelphia 78
San Francisco 67
Salt Lake City 80
Denver 93
Omaha 81
Kansas City 85
Indianapolis 80
Washington 79
Fresno 83
Las Vegas 96
Colorado Springs 89
St. Louis 84
Louisville 82
Charlotte 93
Los Angeles 78
Wichita 92
Oklahoma City 96
Nashville 85
Atlanta 91
Phoenix 106
Albuquerque 94
Memphis 92
Charleston 93
San Diego 72
Lubbock 101
Dallas 97
Birmingham 92
Tucson 103
El Paso 101
Jacksonville 93
San Antonio 94
New Orleans 93
Houston 95
Tampa 93
Miami 91
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	6:40a	6:59p	7:25a	7:40p
Fire Island	6:37a	7:12p	7:19a	7:54p
Hempstead	11:03a	11:06p	11:44a	11:40p
Huntington	10:45a	10:49p	11:26a	11:27p
Jones Inlet	6:24a	6:43p	7:09a	7:24p
Montauk Point	7:57a	8:18p	8:42a	9:03p
Port Washington	11:11a	11:15p	11:54a	11:50p
Sandy Hook	6:44a	7:03p	7:29a	7:44p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	81/60/pc	85/59/s
Danbury	80/63/sh	83/60/pc
Glens Falls	79/58/pc	84/56/s
Gr Barrington	82/59/s	82/55/s
Kingston	83/63/pc	86/60/pc
Liberty	78/60/pc	80/56/pc
Monticello	77/59/sh	81/58/pc
Newburgh	83/64/pc	85/61/pc
Poughkeepsie	81/61/pc	85/58/pc
Saratoga Springs	81/58/pc	85/57/s
Stroudsburg	79/63/r	84/59/pc
Torrington	82/61/pc	83/60/s
Syracuse	80/59/pc	82/60/s

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	93/76/s	90/70/s
Baghdad	109/84/pc	110/87/s
Beijing	95/69/pc	85/69/t
Berlin	103/74/pc	107/73/t
Cairo	96/76/pc	99/75/pc
Dublin	73/55/sh	68/53/pc
Geneva	98/70/s	97/69/s
Hong Kong	89/82/t	89/83/r
Jerusalem	83/66/s	86/68/s
Kabul	94/71/pc	94/70/pc
London	88/66/pc	79/56/pc
Madrid	95/71/pc	92/69/pc
Mexico City	73/55/sh	74/56/r
Montreal	78/62/sh	82/62/s
Moscow	67/55/sh	74/58/sh
Paris	97/71/t	89/63/pc
Rio de Janeiro	77/69/pc	79/67/pc
Rome	92/70/s	93/70/s
Sydney	61/54/sh	63/51/r
Tokyo	75/71/sh	77/68/sh

DIANA ROLON
Lost her own dad recently.

Dad's Day hit 'n' run kills mom

A Staten Island mom was mowed down in a Father's Day hit-and-run as her devastated family warned that the cowardly driver would pay for their "senseless" crimes.

Diana Rolon, 60, died after succumbing to horrific injuries Thursday — four days after she was struck by a speeding BMW driver on Staten Island around 4 p.m., her family said via a GoFundMe page.

Single mom Rolon — who was marking her first Father's Day since her dad died — was waiting to cross the street while she attended a local yard sale.

The driver of a BMW with no license plates was seen zooming on Decker Avenue moments before the collision, which happened near Catherine Street, according to police.

The cowardly driver fled the scene, and Rolon was left fighting for her life in the hospital, where she underwent emergency brain surgery. *Chris Bradford*

Boy, 7, died at weight of 255

The hoarder parents of an obese 7-year-old Michigan boy who weighed 255 pounds when he died of heart failure have been charged with his murder for their "extraordinary, terrible neglect," according to prosecutors

Damien O'Brien, 40, and his wife Jessica O'Brien, 41, are additionally facing child abuse and torture charges in the death of their 7-year-old son, Casper.

Casper was 4-feet, 2-inches tall and far exceeded what the CDC considers a healthy weight of between 50 and 73 pounds. *Patrick Reilly*

THIS TREND SENDS HEARTS RACING

SHARED LANE
ONE WAY

Run clubs play matchmaker for singles

ON ROAD TO MR. RIGHT: The Lunge Run Club gathers at Washington Square Park every Wednesday for a 3-mile run (top), and then runners meet at the Standard Biergarten for drinks and socializing.

Stefano Giovannini

By ANDREA PALLADINO

They say don't chase a man for love, but in this dating scene, he may be running alongside you.

Lonely but fit Gen Z and millennials are swapping heels for sneakers and tequila shots for celery juice, as "run-and-raves" are bringing a new social scene to NYC.

"Singles wear black" is the motto for Lunge Run Club, "a social club disguised as a fitness club," as founder Steve Cole calls it, having started the group to give younger people a space to meet other like-minded people.

Lunge hosts weekly 3-mile runs in Manhattan, where runners are encouraged to move at a "chiller pace" sans headphones so participants can engage, and maybe flirt, with one another, followed by "afters" where runners grab a drink and socialize as their "cool down."

"Afters" range from casual beers at a local pub to EDM raves with wild DJ sets.

Win-win situation

It might sound like a nightmare to some, but for fitness enthusiasts, it's a new way to socialize.

"In the old days, people used to meet at church or work, and since a lot of people care about health and wellness now and prioritize it, it creates a dating pool for them," Cole told The Post.

With as many as 1,000 runners attending a single event, there are plenty of options for those looking to mingle and get their sweat on.

"People come up to me and tell me that their friend is engaged to someone they met at Lunge Run Club," Cole proudly said.

If Lunge Run Club runners strike out with meeting a potential suitor mid-run, Cole encourages them to utilize the club's dating app, where users swipe and match with others before coordinating to go on a run as their "first date."

"I used to see this tall, gorgeous guy all the time at my gym," Lunge user Jaclyn Monroe gushed on the club's website. "I downloaded Lunge and found him. On our first date, he mentioned I was his gym crush, but he felt it was too disrespectful to hit on me during my workout."

Cole feels the concept is a win-win because even if someone leaves without making a connection, at least they got a great workout in.

'Part of something'

Almost Friday Run Club (AFRC) is a similar group that meets every Thursday morning at Morton Street and the West Side Highway to run 1.5 miles downtown before grabbing a cup of coffee together.

AFRC typically sees a crowd of 50-100 20 to 30-year-olds on its weekly runs.

Founders Ben Lorry, Victor Zeitoune and Jack Dweck told The Post that AFRC was born when the trio sought out ways to stay active after graduating from structured sports.

"Building a social circle in this city is harder than people expect," Lorry told The Post. "We've become a place where newcomers can immediately feel like they're a part of something."

The founders purposely built in a walk break that allows people to chat up someone new.

AFRC hosts various functions, including its annual "Beer Mile," where runners chug beer before their run; celebrity events like celeb DJ Diplo hosting an after-run party; and a "Cookie Run," where participants finish at a local partner bakery. They've also collaborated with a bar for a "Will Run for Wine" 5K.

"For a long time, nightlife was the default social outlet for a lot of young people," Dweck said. "Now people are looking for ways to balance that out. A run club doesn't replace those experiences; it complements them."

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What a Racket

Fans won't take kindly to tennis pros' greed

GAVIN NEWSHAM

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS
WIMBLEDON

Getty Images

Show us the money: Aryna Sabalenka hints of a boycott by tennis stars.

ON the eve of Wimbledon, the sport's most storied tournament, pro tennis finds itself talking less about champions — and more about checks.

A group of top players announced this week that when the matches begin on Monday, they'll limit their press conferences to precisely 15 minutes apiece in protest. What started last month as a debate over prize money is morphing into something else: a story not about fairness, but naked avarice.

At the center of the battle is top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka, who has been pushing her fellow high-paid players to insist on receiving a greater share of revenues from the Grand Slams, tennis' four major tournaments. Her argument is simple enough: no players, no show.

"Without us there wouldn't be a tournament," she said at this year's Italian Open. "I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage."

Then came a remark that reverberated throughout the sport: "I think at some point we will boycott," she declared.

A players' strike against the sport of kings? Unthinkable.

Yet Sabalenka's stance has gained significant support from a clutch of top players. "If everyone were to move as one and collaborate, yeah, I can 100% see" a Grand Slam walkout, American star Coco Gauff said in May.

But the aggrieved athletes are missing an important truth. Without the golden platforms of the French Open, the Australian Open, the US Open and above all Wimbledon, stars like Sabalenka and Gauff aren't created in the first place.

Look at Serena Williams, making a return to action at Wimbledon next week. The 44-year-old's 23 Grand Slam singles titles gained her international fame, wealth and influence.

She used her clout to expand opportunity for others, fighting for equal prize money and greater respect for women's tennis. But Williams has been conspicuously quiet on the payout issue — because today's fight isn't about recognition or equality.

No, it's about already wealthy stars demanding an even larger share of the pot.

The optics are dreadful: Sabalenka, 28, has pocketed $50 million in prize money over her decade-long career, and has lucrative endorsement deals with Nike, Gucci and other luxe brands. She took to the court at this year's French Open wearing a $100,000 diamond-and-garnet necklace because "looking good helps me perform better."

At a time when many fans struggle with the cost of living, hearing some of the world's wealthiest athletes argue they deserve an even bigger slice of the pie doesn't inspire sympathy. Instead, it reinforces every stereotype about elite sports' detachment from reality.

And the Grand Slams aren't exactly hoarding cash. They invest heavily in staging these world-class events and improving facilities — and, crucially, in funding the future of tennis through grassroots participation and development. In other words, the kind of tennis Sabalenka has left far behind.

Wimbledon, for example, is spending $270 million this year on adding 38 new courts and a new show court to its complex — while giving 90% of any surplus it makes to the Lawn Tennis Association, the game's governing body in Britain, to train and encourage the next generation of stars.

Tennis is drifting toward the same trap that has bedeviled pro golf in recent years, after LIV Golf tempted players away from the venerable PGA Tour with eye-watering sums of Saudi money. Some, like Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau, accepted all too readily; others, like Rory McIlroy and Scottie Scheffler, refused.

Yet almost everyone involved discovered the same thing: There comes a point where another zero on the check no longer enhances your reputation, but trashes it. Which golfers are regarded most fondly today — those who chased every last dollar, or those who tied their legacies to competition, tradition and sporting greatness?

Nobody objects to elite athletes earning fortunes. They are exceptional talents, with a short window of opportunity, and deserve to be rewarded accordingly.

But supporters don't simply admire excellence; they admire sacrifice, commitment and the pursuit of greatness. If you win $5 million in that pursuit, as Sabalenka did for taking the US Open title last year, hats off to you. But the moment star athletes appear to be motivated primarily by the extraction of ever more money, our emotional connection to them begins to erode.

The Grand Slams should be about legacy, rivalries and history. Instead, thanks to some of their biggest stars, they risk becoming a referendum on greed. And once a sport loses that argument, repairing the damage is far harder than cashing the next check.

Gavin Newsham is a New York Post contributing writer.

FAST TAKES

Libertarian: Dems Fall for 'Fantasy Economics'

Democrat's "leading lights are not especially sharp" on economics, but the DSA crowd is leading them into pure "economic fantasyland," warns Reason's Peter Suderman. Darializa Avila Chevalier is a "committed economic socialist" fighting for "Medicare for All," even though the plan is so "unwieldy" it failed even in Sen. Bernie Sanders' home state of Vermont. Claire Valdez supports the Green New Deal, though the cost is estimated "at over $90 trillion," triple the country's annual GDP. Some might argue these new socialists aren't "representative of the rest of the party," but mainstream Dems "have been embracing fantasy economics for years," and this week's DSA wins "are just the latest sign that the fantasy is taking over."

Canada beat: Eyes Wide Shut to Jew-Hate

A Montreal shooting with obvious "antisemitic elements" that left two people dead received "virtually no Canadian coverage," despite the killer's overtly anti-Jewish manifesto, frets Casey Babb at The Free Press. "Articles from major outlets" across Canada focus instead on the murderer's "violent incel" and "anti-feminism" ruminations. This "omission" is "striking" because "Canada has arguably become one of the most antisemitic countries in the Western world," with "countless shootings at Jewish day schools," "firebombing of synagogues and acts of vandalism." The situation for Canadian Jews seems "unlikely" to improve, and in response "Jews in Canada have already begun retreating inward." "Fear among Jews is palpable," with many Jews in Canada "now asking themselves how much worse things can get."

Business desk: So Much for 'Record' Oil Prices

Oil-industry analysts "are eating a lot of humble pie lately," snarks CNN's David Goldman. "Despite the biggest oil supply shock in history, oil prices in recent months never approached their record set in 2008. Gas and diesel prices didn't surpass their 2022 highs. And, just as President Donald Trump predicted, oil prices have, in fact, fallen 'like a rock' after the United States reached an agreement with Iran." So how did "all the experts" get it "so wrong"? Well, for starters, the world had 407 million barrels in storage going into the war. Trump then lifted sanctions on Russian and Iranian oil. China shifted to coal power plants instead of oil. Brazil and Venezuela ramped up supplies. Turns out the oil market is "significantly more flexible than even the most knowledgeable experts anticipated."

LA watch: Pratt Couldn't Beat Demographics

LOS ANGELES
PRATT

Spencer Pratt

"A Trump-like performance," such as Spencer Pratt's in Los Angeles, "can make a primary interesting," remarks City Journal's Jesse Arm. But it can't "make someone mayor." People in LA don't "need to be persuaded that their city is badly governed," and Pratt overperformed "in fire-adjacent and hill-adjacent precincts across the Westside and San Fernando Valley." But "many places that people associate with the cultural idea of Los Angeles" where Pratt became popular, such as Santa Monica or Beverly Hills, "don't vote for mayor of Los Angeles." In the end, "demographics" worked against Pratt, who had little more than "a Republican coalition with a few local enhancements." Nonetheless, Pratt proved that "a blunt, local critique of progressive governance can resonate" even in a city like Los Angeles.

From the right: Time To Ditch 'Disparate Impact'

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission "bureaucrats" embody "everything that's wrong with the administrative state," rails The Wall Street Journal's Jason L. Riely. Supporters of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which created the EEOC to oversee its Title VII employment provisions, insisted the bill didn't authorize "disparate impact," i.e, the use of "racially disproportionate" results to determine discrimination; rather, discrimination had to be "intentional," not merely "inferred" from outcomes. Nonetheless, the EEOC soon "determined that statistical disparities could be used," even if discrimination was unintentional, and the Supreme Court backed it. Now the Justice Department is moving "to rein in EEOC's use of 'disparate impact.' " Finally: "It's long past time we clean up this mess," and Team Trump "has taken an admirable step."

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

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Mamdani's Rent Surprise

Mayor Mamdani won office vowing to freeze rents and now he's delivered — for *some* renters, with a ham-handed "victory" that will force big hikes for other renters and risks getting the rent laws nixed by the US Supreme Court.

Unlike every mayor before him, Mamdani just used his control of the supposedly independent Rent Guidelines Board, which each year sets allowed hikes on one- and two-year leases for NYC's 1 million regulated units, to impose zero increases on *all* leases — when the RGB's own staff says landlords' costs (which the board is *supposed* to consider) are rising far faster than inflation.

We've written at length on the troubles this means in buildings that are mostly rent-regulated, but it doesn't stop there. In complexes with a good number of non-regulated units, landlords will hike rents on those apartments to cover their costs, especially on newly vacant ones. Market-rate rents will *soar*, making them even less affordable for anyone trying to move here. Oh, and anyone with a good deal will stay if they can, meaning fewer vacancies than ever even in the rent-regulated market. Lots of Mamdani voters are in for an unpleasant surprise.

Note that the rent laws aren't truly all that progressive: More than a third of rent-regged apartments are occupied by single adults with no children; about 30% of tenants make over $100,000 a year, well above median income.

The ham-handed RGB move will certainly bring court challenges, and practically begs the Supremes to toss the rent laws completely. In the past, they've ruled that the laws aren't an unconstitutional taking because nonpartisan experts play an important role in RGB decisions; politicians can't just do as they please.

Oops: Ahead of Thursday's meeting, Christina Smyth, named to the RGB to speak for landlords, quit in protest, ripping the process as "theater" that ignored rising building and insurance costs for property owners. Plus, the mayor's Democratic Socialists of America cronies crowed: "Just days after our candidates sweep their elections, we're going to deliver a rent freeze for millions of New Yorkers!"

These are *damning* facts to raise with the Supremes; what an irony if Mamdani goes down in history as the mayor who killed rent control.

On AI, NYC Schools Should Go *Last*

Kudos to the City Council for listening to parents' concerns and derailing the Department of Education's brainless guidance on AI in schools.

The DOE announced it's halting distribution of its artificial-intelligence guidance after a fiery joint hearing before the Education and Technology committees.

For months, parents complained that the draft AI guidance is confusing and even contradictory as to how teachers and students should use the tech. Other parents fear the tech's impact on students' creativity and critical thinking skills, not to mention all the high-profile allegations that chatbots convinced kids to kill others or themselves.

Education chair Eric Dinowitz told The Post that he's especially annoyed that AI products are "certainly being used by individual schools outside of the districts" that DOE officials testified (under oath) to.

DOE officials say they'll still release the AI guidance this summer, but what's the rush? Maybe some top educrat needs to earn a private payment from some vendor; maybe the DOE braintrust thinks they can somehow win prestige for "doing AI right."

Except that this is an agency that begins *every* school year failing to get its buses running on time and on the right routes, one that's still addicted to Chromebooks when the kids need to work with pencil and paper to learn basic skills.

Sorry: The DOE should just wait for someone else to get it right. Go for a two-year moratorium on *any* AI in the schools (with waivers possible in some cases).

No one should trust the bureaucracy that can't manage to deliver basic literacy and numeracy in city schools to figure out "future tech." The DOE needs to stop pretending it knows what it's doing.

A Big Blow to Ambulance-Chasers

Yay: The Supreme Court just embraced science and sense over hysteria and trial-lawyer greed, slapping down an entire class of lawsuits that aimed to suck hundreds of billions out of US businesses.

In the case at hand, the junk-science claim was that the weedkiller Roundup caused a Missouri man's cancer, and the company that makes it owed him $1.25 million because it never put a warning on the label.

Yet the federal Environmental Protection Agency has *repeatedly* tested that claim about the herbicide and found no such effect, and so refuses to require a warning.

By 7-2, the justices ruled that state courts can't create their own standards for such warnings when the feds have already acted.

This ruling nixes *thousands* of similar suits against Bayer (which bought Monsanto, Roundup's maker, in 2019), and countless *similar* suits against other companies.

Judgments in Roundup cases have hit the billions, so the lawsuits were never going to stop until the Supremes shut the racket down.

The ambulance-chasing bar spends big to fund studies declaring all manner of substances to *possibly* cause cancer, claims that paid "experts" can cite to give juries an excuse to help out a sympathetic plaintiff.

The high court just dealt a huge blow to that scam, a win for companies that make things and a loss for racketeering lawyers.

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letters@nypost.com

NYC Democratic Primaries: The Hard Left Triumphs

THE ISSUE: Claire Valdez, Darializa Avila Chevalier and Brad Lander win in Democratic primaries.

Darializa Avila Chevalier

•What all three DSA winners in city House Democratic primaries have in common is that they hate our country — instead of being grateful for being here ("Latest lurch left in Mam's NY," June 24).

Darializa Avila Chevalier went as far as to say that she used our flag to wipe her herself. Many Americans gave their lives for that flag and the country it stands for. How can we send reps to Congress who are so opposed to everything we stand for?

Bill Isler
Floral Park

•Three DSA radicals who abhor America and its traditions won primaries by a tiny proportion of Democratic voters — most of whom sat out. Hopefully, sane Democrats and Republicans will get off their couches and undo the damage in the general election.

Joseph Valente
Staten Island

•I can't believe that ignorant people are putting New York at risk of becoming something that I thought I would never see: a city with no respect for law enforcement, with criminals committing crimes and not even getting a slap on the wrist; budgets that are rising astronomically to fund idiotic proposals and exorbitant politicians' salaries; politicians turning a blind eye to rampant anti-Semitism; and all of it chasing businesses that the city needs out of the state.

New York is becoming unrecognizable to decent and law-abiding citizens.

Veronica Kwiecinski
Maspeth

•Thank you, New York — you have provided the rest of the country with enough laughter and craziness to keep us all in stitches for years.

Watching these elected officials disassemble the fabric of common sense will be the only thing to put a smile on your faces.

Open borders, no police, no prisons and free stuff that will be impossible to fulfill is all they can talk about, with no possible way to make it all work. Good luck!

Ron Heimer
Chula Vista, Calif.

•So the far-left socialist candidates won big in New York. This is sending shivers down the spines of regular Democrats, who now sheepishly admit the party has been turned over to the left-wing loons.

The Democrats who want to take the party back have to do only one thing to rally the cause: embrace the well-established American ideals. If they don't, the socialist left will soon tell them, "We will bury you!"

I wonder where that phrase came from?

Robert Lobenstein
Hubertus, Wisc.

•The three Mamdani-backed, anti-American, antisemitic candidates won their primaries. These dangerous left-wing socialists must be stopped in the November elections. The same is true of the two radical winners in New Jersey House primaries.

Jerseyites and New Yorkers, stand up, and vote for the true patriotic candidates who will save our states, our country and our democracy — not destroy it.

Betty Schwartz
Livingston, NJ

•The DSA: where the inmates run the asylum.

Paul Mathews
San Luis Obispo, Calif.

•As cowardly Democrats sit silently, Mamdani has turned what used to be their party into the tip of the Marxist, socialist, antisemitic spear. Democratic candidates who trashed Israel, called for open borders, no jail, no private property and no deportation of illegal aliens convicted of even the most heinous crimes won handily.

Jim Soviero
E. Setauket

•These victories of Mamdani-backed candidates in New York City primaries is further proof of the inadequacy of US secondary and university education. If voters had learned more history, they would be aware of the failure of socialist and communist governments in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Cuba and North Korea.

Hopefully, New York's voters will embrace reality before too much damage is wrought.

Fredric Jarrett
Sarasota, Fla.

•I'm surprised to see that so many New York City voters agree to support and embrace communism over American patriotism and our country.

Robert Neglia
The Bronx

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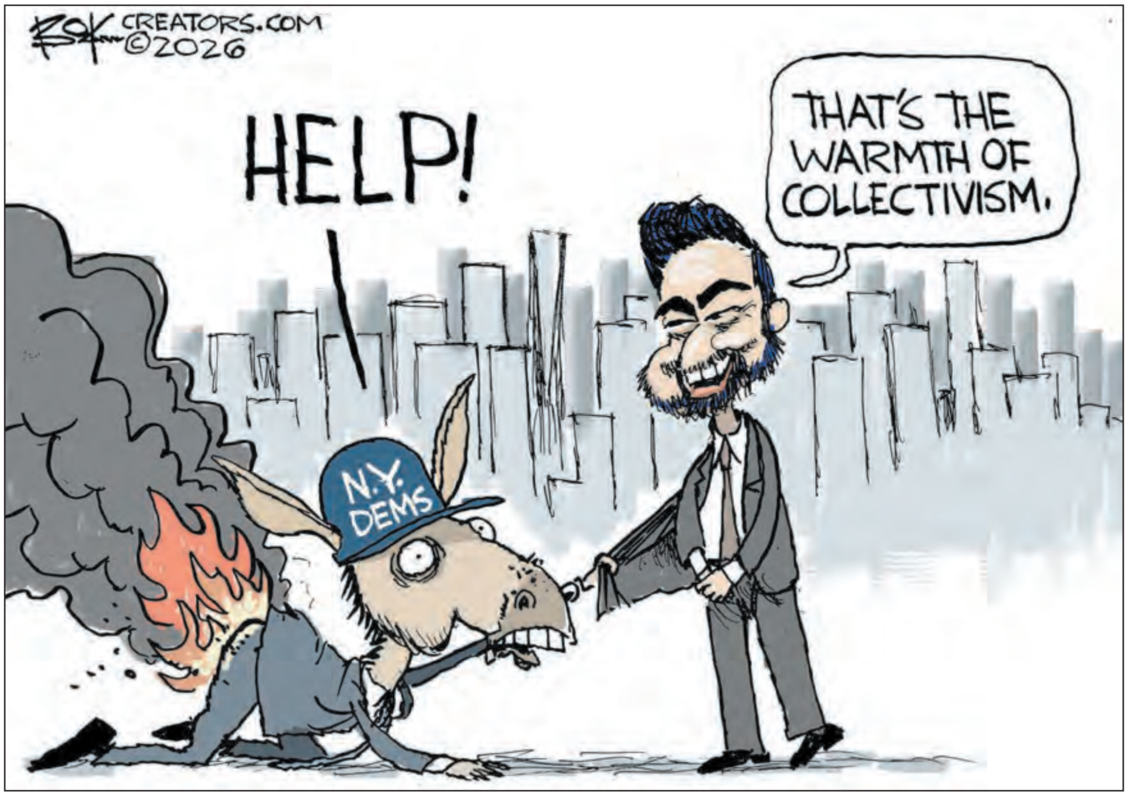
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THAT'S THE WARMTH OF COLLECTIVISM.
N.Y. DEMS

The Latest 'Deport' Lie

ANDREW ARTHUR

THE media's at it again: Trying to whip up public hysteria over immigration enforcement.

Trump "pledged to target the 'worst of the worst' criminal offenders among the nation's migrants," ABC News intoned — yet "just 3% of recent ICE detainees had a violent felony conviction."

The story zoomed around social media and was picked up by other outlets, many of which implied that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has somehow betrayed its focus on public safety.

But that argument rests on a fundamental misunderstanding of both immigration law and the purpose of immigration enforcement.

ABC's statistic is real: Of the 438,537 illegal immigrants detained in Trump's first 14 months, 13,018 had been convicted of a crime like homicide or sexual assault in the US. Yet its conclusion is utterly wrong, ignoring the impact of the most significant immigration law Congress enacted in years: the Laken Riley Act.

Americans should remember why Congress passed that law.

Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, was murdered in 2024 by an illegal immigrant who'd been apprehended for committing lesser offenses and released. Her vicious killing sparked outrage over a system that repeatedly ignored warning signs — until an innocent American paid the ultimate price.

Congress responded with a clear message: Immigration authorities shouldn't wait for illegal immigrants to commit murder, rape, robbery or other violent felonies before taking action. Instead, the Laken Riley Act expanded mandatory-detention rules to include illegal immigrants who are arrested for, or admit to, a range of crimes including burglary, theft, larceny and shoplifting.

People like Javier Hernandez Rosas, an alleged MS-13 member with arrests for abduction and weapons possession, now in ICE detention. Or Nelson Vladimir Amaya-Benitez of El Salvador, charged with armed robbery and theft.

Congress decided that, as a matter of public safety, intervention must occur before such criminal conduct escalates.

Yet critics now complain that too many detained aliens are not convicted murderers, rapists or robbers — turning the law on its head.

The goal of immigration enforcement is not merely to identify the worst offenders, but to apply the laws Congress enacted to protect Americans from becoming victims in the first place.

The same critics overlook another reality: Immigration enforcement has never been limited to violent felons.

Federal law has long required the detention and removal of aliens convicted of a broad range of offenses relating to drugs, firearms, fraud and countless other crimes.

It also requires detention of aliens with final removal orders, and gives immigration officers broad discretion to detain removable aliens who present flight risks or dangers to the community.

ICE officers aren't enforcing a public-safety code written by TV commentators — they're enforcing the laws enacted by Congress. And Congress has made it clear that public safety involves far more than "violent felonies."

There's another flaw in ABC's 3% delusion: Many aliens convicted of homicide, rape, robbery and other violent offenses are still serving lengthy sentences in US state prisons — and ICE can't take custody of them until they're released. So, many of the most dangerous criminal aliens are not counted in daily ICE detention statistics because they're incarcerated elsewhere.

Ultimately, it comes down to a simple question: Must ICE wait until an illegal alien commits a violent felony before taking steps to remove him or her? Congress answered that question when it passed the Laken Riley Act. And Americans shouldn't have to wait for another Laken Riley before the government enforces the law.

Immigration enforcement is an essential public-safety function, aiming not to detain violent felons after they've done their damage, but to identify removable aliens, enforce the laws Congress has written, and prevent criminals from preying again.

That's why the obsession with the 3% statistic misses the point. The lesson of Laken Riley was that the government shouldn't ignore warning signs until it's too late. Congress understood that reality, as its law shows; the press should, too.

Andrew Arthur is the fellow in law and policy at the Center for Immigration Studies.

MAMDANISTAS' AIM: DEMOLISH AMERICA

DAVID HARSANYI

THE next mayor of Washington, DC, is likely to be a Marxist. In Los Angeles, the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks are battling it out for control. New York City has already fallen to a champion of Third Worldism. And, for the first time in US history, a significant bloc of Congress will openly hate the country they represent.

We aren't talking about anti-Americanism in an abstract or hyperbolic sense: The Zohran Mamdani slate that swept New York's Democratic Party primaries this week is explicit in its aim to dismantle the republic.

Members of Democratic Socialists of America want to abolish the police, prisons and borders and "seize the means of production," as the future congresswoman from New York's 13th congressional district, Darializa Avila Chevalier, once argued. The co-founder of a group that called for "nothing short of the total collapse" of the "American empire," with the goal to "eradicate America" and "Western civilization," Avila Chevalier doesn't deny she's a communist. And why should she?

There's a temptation to dismiss and whitewash the rise of the socialists. We shouldn't. Sure, the DSA is still constrained by the constitutional order — but it isn't constrained by Democrats.

"The roof is collapsing on the Democratic Party establishment tonight," Van Jones warned as he watched the primary results come in. "This is a battle between the establishment and this insurgency."

What battle? The establishment has surrendered to the DSA's hostile takeover on every front. Establishment Democrats like Nancy Pelosi had the chance to sideline Squad members when they first appeared, yet the former speaker eventually coddled them, perched them in important committees and appeared on magazine covers celebrating their ascendency.

If Democrats were unwilling to sideline illiberal bigots like Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) back then, what makes anyone think they'll stand up to the socialists now? Top Democrats virtually tripped over themselves to endorse Nazi SS tattoo man Graham Platner, a Mamdanista in all ways save the flannel shirt.

> ***"The establishment has surrendered to the DSA's hostile takeover on every front."***

"One of the things that makes the Democratic Party great is it's a big tent party," New Jersey Sen. Corey Booker said of socialists who explicitly demand the overturn of Article I of the Constitution. "We need to stay that way."

Democratic voters, says Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, "choose candidates, not party leaders. And party leaders need to listen to what voters are telling us, and right now they are demanding our party be bolder."

One supposes that if a person already supports abolishing the Electoral College and packing the Supreme Court, supporting the eradication of all checks and balances isn't much of a jump.

It's not implausible that many more Democrats in urban areas will lose their seats to the well-funded socialist candidates, up to and including House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. At the very least, Jeffries and others will be compelled to move even farther left to pacify the DSA and save their seats.

Considering the spinelessness of the "establishment," we can expect Democrats to embrace a widening array of Marxist policy ideas.

Some analysts note the primary voters for the Mamdani slate were largely high-earning, young, non-native New York voters, not the working class, immigrants or rank-and-file voters. Marxists are most often over-credentialed bourgeois with savior complexes. On the other hand, all energy on the left is with the anti-US faction. Per Gallup, 66% of Democrats hold a positive view of socialism.

The younger you are, the more you lean toward collectivist ideas: An Axios-Generation Lab poll found 67% of college students hold a positive or neutral association with "socialism," compared to only 40% with "capitalism."

The outlook among immigrants isn't much better. Per one poll, Mamdani won 62% of foreign-born voters in his mayoral race; another poll found that he won 81% of the vote of people in the city for fewer than 10 years. Mamdani won something like 90% of Muslim votes.

We can extrapolate from that race that socialists are importing Third World ideas that appeal to unassimilated newcomers — one of the most popular being Jew-hatred. The Mamdanistas fulminate and obsess over Israel so often you'd think they were running on the Hamas slate in the Gaza Strip.

There's always been radicalism on the left. But Democrats didn't invite the Black Panthers or the Weather Underground into their party in the 1970s. In the 2020s, though, Democrats invited communists into their tent. Now the communists are taking over.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A_1 I_1 O_1 N_1 R_1 D_2 N_1 RACK 1

E_1 O_1 O_1 T_1 D_2 R_1 B_3 3rd Letter Double RACK 2

E_1 I_1 I_1 D_2 W_4 F_4 M_3 Triple Word Score RACK 3

E_1 E_1 Y_4 N_1 R_1 R_1 T_1 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 228

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

A_1 N_1 D_2 I_1 R_1 O_1 N_1 RACK 1 = 58
D_2 E_1 B_3 T_1 O_1 R_1 RACK 2 = 12
M_3 I_1 D_2 W_4 I_1 F_4 E_1 RACK 3 = 98
R_1 E_1 E_1 N_1 T_1 R_1 Y_4 RACK 4 = 60
PAR SCORE 140-150 TOTAL 228

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 9 6
♡ Q J 10
◇ Q 6
♣ A K 5 2

WEST
♠ 8 2
♡ 9 8 7 4
◇ A 8 4 3
♣ J 10 3

EAST
♠ K J 5 3
♡ K 6 2
◇ 7 5
♣ Q 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ 10 7 4
♡ A 5 3
◇ K J 10 9 2
♣ 7 4

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ◇	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♡ 9

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Simple Saturday columns treat basic technique and logical thinking.

The best things in life aren't things, and they may not be free either. A so-called "free finesse" — when a defender seems to help declarer by leading into a tenace holding — may prove costly.

Today's West led a high heart against 3NT, and South was pleased with the free finesse, especially when East's king covered dummy's queen. South took his ace and led a diamond to dummy's queen and a second diamond.

West won and led another heart, marooning South in dummy. He took the third heart and the A-K of clubs and exited with a club, but West took the jack, cashed the 13th heart and led a spade. East got a spade and his queen of clubs for down one.

The "free finesse" was a costly delusion. South should let East's king of hearts win, preserving an entry to his hand. (After he took the ace, he needed a crystal ball to succeed.) South wins the next heart in dummy and forces out the ace of diamonds. He wins four diamonds, two hearts, two clubs and one spade.

Word Force

PREEMINENCE

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 18** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST
Yesterday's word:
DIGNITARY

angry
dairy
diary
digit
dingy
dirty
drain
dying
giant
grain
grand
grant
grind
nadir
radii
rainy
randy
rangy
rigid
tangy
tardy
train
triad
tying

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT MIGHT BE PURLOINED **Solution: 10 letters**

S	P	L	A	E	T	S	T	S	U	R	T	W	M	T
S	U	B	E	S	T	O	W	A	T	C	H	O	H	C
E	R	R	I	A	R	I	K	O	E	C	N	E	F	E
C	C	E	V	F	P	C	E	E	O	I	F	D	I	T
C	H	T	T	E	O	D	N	S	T	T	L	E	L	O
A	A	F	G	L	I	T	L	O	B	E	D	E	C	R
R	S	I	B	V	E	L	R	L	I	O	Z	F	H	P
T	E	L	L	A	W	H	L	H	C	I	U	I	O	A
N	O	I	T	U	A	C	S	A	E	A	D	H	C	S
E	B	C	R	L	T	R	O	S	N	E	S	O	O	S
T	S	R	A	R	E	B	Y	C	G	C	P	H	N	W
A	E	R	E	M	A	T	L	U	S	Y	E	K	T	O
N	M	V	U	A	E	B	A	B	D	U	C	T	R	R
O	I	L	I	P	C	R	Y	K	A	E	N	S	O	D
D	E	T	A	G	D	H	A	Y	E	N	O	M	L	Y

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Abduct, Access, Alarm, Barrier, Bestow, Block, Bolt, Breach, Camera, Cash, Caution, Code, Control, Copy, Cyber, Divert, Donate, Fence, Filch, Gate, Give, Guard, Heist, Hide, Keys, Lift, Lose, Money, Monitor, Password, Protect, Purchase, Purse, Safe, Seize, Sensor, Shelter, Shield, Shop, Sneaky, Steal, Surveillance, Swipe, Take, Theft, Trust, Video, Wallet, Watch

Yesterday's Answer: Brazil

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 34

© Syndicated Puzzles

Very Easy #7,322

8	2						1	4
		1	6		7		3	
6					1			9
	8		5	3	4		6	2
3	5		1	9	2		7	
5			7					1
	9		4		5	3		
2	7						9	6

Difficult #7,112

			3	9	2			
		3	5				6	
	8	1				3		
9	2		1				7	
	7				4		2	5
		9				5	8	
	5				3	1		
			7	5	1			

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13	14
15										■	16			
17										■	18			
19					■	20				■	21			
22				■	23			■	24	25			■	■
■	■	■	■	26				27	■	28			29	30
31	32	33	34			■	35		36					
37						38								
39								■	40					
41					■	42		43			■	■	■	■
■	■	44			45	■	46			■	47	48	49	50
51	52			■	53	54			■	55				
56				■	57				58					
59				■	60									
61				■	62									

Across
1 Early revolutions
11 Exam with a max score of 180
15 Only shopped at farmers markets, perhaps
16 Set in stone
17 Help in obtaining top-shelf products
18 "Educated: A Memoir" writer Westover
19 Homes for some queens
20 Instrument invented by Hermes
21 Bamia or sambar
22 Frosted
23 "Fore!" site
24 Bundles
26 Earring parts
28 Ending of "Oedipus"
31 Put on a bashful front
35 Overdrive
37 Line for waiters
39 Cannes Film Festival prize
40 Prankster with opposable thumbs
41 Aisha of "Archer"
42 Oman neighbor
44 Go, to the dogs
46 General concern
47 Material for some biodegradable bags
51 Kitchen work
53 St. __ Fresh Skin Apricot Scrub
55 "Brave" studio
56 Zest source
57 "Great, now we're pouting"
59 Smell
60 Messages that something's gone wrong
61 Word in skin care ads
62 One who has seen it all

Down
1 Paper used in origami
2 Unfinished story, perhaps
3 "Still Me" memoirist Christopher
4 Wore a long face
5 Addresses with dots
6 Org. with many excellent drivers
7 Big scoops
8 "... somehow nothing has changed"
9 Huntington Beach landmark
10 Item that's often turned in
11 "Our food's getting cold!"
12 One who might crunch numbers for fun
13 Orchard unit
14 Spring break?
23 Trifled (with)
25 Running back Jeanty who was runner-up for the 2024 Heisman Trophy
26 Tough puzzles
27 Nurse
29 Thick hair
30 Like some indie movies
31 Cal. entry
32 Roland Garros surface
33 "I can't wait for an answer!"
34 Left empty-handed, in a way
36 Fortnite streamer, e.g.
38 Little dude
43 Psychologist who created a notable hierarchy
45 New team member
47 Suddenly come up with
48 Radiate
49 Some stable parents
50 Iron
51 Nudge
52 Wheels
54 VIP member?
55 Formal agreement
58 Scan that may diagnose a torn ACL

H	A	I	T	I	■	N	A	I	L	■	S	L	A	T
E	G	R	E	T	■	G	U	R	U	■	C	O	C	O
A	N	I	M	A	■	U	D	O	N	■	H	O	R	N
D	I	S	P	L	A	Y	I	N	G	T	I	M	E	■
■	■	■	E	I	N	E	■	■	I	O	S	■	■	■
■	D	I	S	C	O	N	T	E	N	T	M	I	L	L
F	A	C	T	■	■	■	R	A	G	E	■	L	A	A
I	L	O	S	T	■	H	A	T	■	S	T	A	Y	S
N	A	N	■	A	C	I	D	■	■	■	O	N	U	S
D	I	S	C	L	O	S	E	T	H	E	G	A	P	■
■	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	Y	A	L	E	■	■	■
■	D	I	S	A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T	I	O	N
M	O	S	H	■	A	L	T	O	■	P	H	O	T	O
E	L	S	E	■	G	O	T	O	■	S	E	T	I	N
S	L	A	W	■	E	T	O	N	■	E	R	A	S	E

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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AI BLOOD$UCKER

Google taking big search bite out of web publishers

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Google is reportedly looking to bleed publishers yet again — threatening to exclude them from a lucrative new artificial-intelligence partnership unless they allow the tech giant to train its AI bots on their valuable content.

In recent months, Google has been pitching news and entertainment publishers on a new pilot program that would promote their content in Google's AI Overviews — a big boost to organizations that have faced significant declines in web traffic, The Information reported.

But in exchange, Google wants broad access to the publishers' content, including the right to potentially use it to train AI bots, a person familiar with the project told The Information.

Driving a hard bargain

Google, which launched its Gemini chatbots in 2023, is driving a hard bargain. The company, headed by CEO Sundar Pichai, warned publishers that if they don't agree to the new program, they will eventually lose out on payments from the current content-licensing arrangement, known as Showcase. Showcase is being ended, Google reportedly told some companies.

"This is Google's game. They're gonna dominate here," said Jason Kint, chief executive of Digital Content Next, a trade group that represents online publishers including The New York Times, The Washington Post and News Corp, The Post's owner.

"There's no fair deal discussions that can happen with Google. It's really a matter of how much money they want to drop on an individual organization," Kint told The Post.

A spokesperson for Google told The Post: "As people's news preferences change, we've been expanding our partnerships through our News AI pilot program, working with a wide range of publishers to explore how AI can drive more engaged audiences."

The spokesperson added that Google has been "testing features" to "help people cut through information overload, easily decide where to click out, and connect with news in different formats."

Publishers have complained that traffic to their websites from search results has already plummeted — some by as much as half — since Google launched its AI Overview tool — which supplies an AI-generated summary of search results at the top of the page — in 2024.

A Pew Research Center study found that when people see an AI Overview, they are half as likely to ever click a link from Google, and when they find an answer in an AI Overview, they are more likely to end their browsing session altogether.

Google has said it continues to send billions of clicks to websites every day and that the Pew study's methodology was flawed.

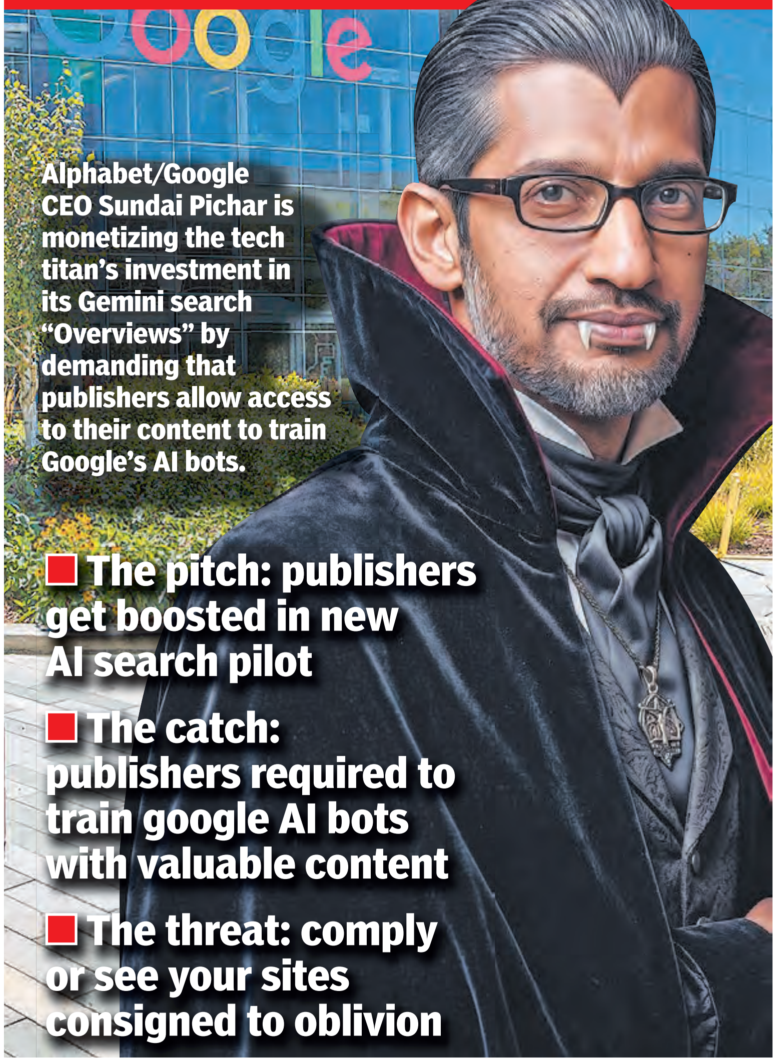
One year after Google launched its AI Overview tool to the public, CNN saw traffic to its website fall by 30%, while Business Insider and HuffPost's sites saw traffic plunge about 40%, according to an NPR report citing data from Similarweb.

That is a big hit to news publishers, who are heavily dependent on advertising — which is tied to how many clicks they can drive to their website — as well as audience revenue streams, like subscriptions and other paywalls.

Meanwhile, several publishers have filed lawsuits accusing tech companies of scraping data from their sites for use in training their AI bots — which has sent AI giants racing to secure content-licensing agreements.

therzlich@nypost.com

The bitter tooth



Alphabet/Google CEO Sundai Pichar is monetizing the tech titan's investment in its Gemini search "Overviews" by demanding that publishers allow access to their content to train Google's AI bots.

- 🟥 **The pitch: publishers get boosted in new AI search pilot**
- 🟥 **The catch: publishers required to train google AI bots with valuable content**
- 🟥 **The threat: comply or see your sites consigned to oblivion**

Gil Fontimayor / NY Post Design

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chips tumble

The three main indexes finished with modest losses Friday as a steep drop in AI-related chip stocks offset sharp gains in Moderna and other healthcare stocks. The Nasdaq, down for the fifth straight day, was off 4.6% this week.

Saks refresh

Saks Global is emerging from Chapter 11 bankruptcy and rebranding itself as Exemplar Luxury Group. The company said it is coming out of the process with a 75% debt reduction and sufficient liquidity.

Adani limbo

A federal judge ordered the Justice Department to justify its decision to drop criminal charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, declining to rule on Adani's request to dismiss the case.

Spectrum sale

Verizon and T-Mobile were the big winners in the Federal Communications Commission's spectrum auction. Verizon won 82 licenses for $3.16 billion. T-Mobile won 102 licenses for $277.8 million.

eBay or bust

The Ryan Cohen-led GameStop pledged to pursue its proposed takeover of eBay, even after the e-commerce giant rejected an unsolicited $56 billion offer.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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US crude back down to prewar prices

US crude oil closed below $70 a barrel Friday for the first time since the Iran war began, as traders remained optimistic about tanker traffic flow through the Strait of Hormuz — even after an Iranian attack on a cargo ship paused a large-scale evacuation.

West Texas Intermediate crude oil fell 3.7% to $69.23 a barrel, while Brent — the global benchmark — declined 4.3% to $71.99 a barrel. Both benchmarks have fallen for three straight weeks.

National average gasoline prices hit $3.90 a gallon Friday, according to AAA — down 13% over the past month and sharply lower than highs of $4.56 a gallon earlier this year.

Iran on Thursday reportedly attacked a Singaporean cargo ship passing through the strait, hours after the regime warned that "violators" who did not use its sanctioned route through would be "dealt with."

Following the attack, the United Nations' International Maritime Organization announced it would be pausing its evacuation of ships through the strait.

"There is a growing sense that oil is going to keep moving through the Strait of Hormuz," Phil Flynn, senior analyst with Price Futures Group, told Reuters.

Taylor Herzlich

Tell-all due from ex-'60' big

Former "60 Minutes" executive producer Bill Owens is reportedly writing a tell-all memoir about his 37 years at CBS News, taking aim at owner Paramount, CEO David Ellison and editor-in-chief Bari Weiss, among others.

In a proposal obtained by Breaker Media, Owens (right) describes Paramount's decision to settle President Trump's lawsuit over the editing of a "60 Minutes" interview with then-Vice President Kamala Harris as "perhaps the worst legal strategy ever employed by the worst-run media company in the history of America."

The book would mark Owens' most extensive public account of the turmoil that engulfed CBS News and "60 Minutes" before and after he resigned from the network.

Owens resigned last year after claiming that growing corporate involvement in editorial decisions had deprived him of the independence he believed the executive producer of "60 Minutes" needed to do the job.

According to Breaker, he alleges in the proposal that Paramount had "set up an internal spy ring that the Vichy government would have admired," claiming scripts and story plans were routinely shared with senior corporate leadership.

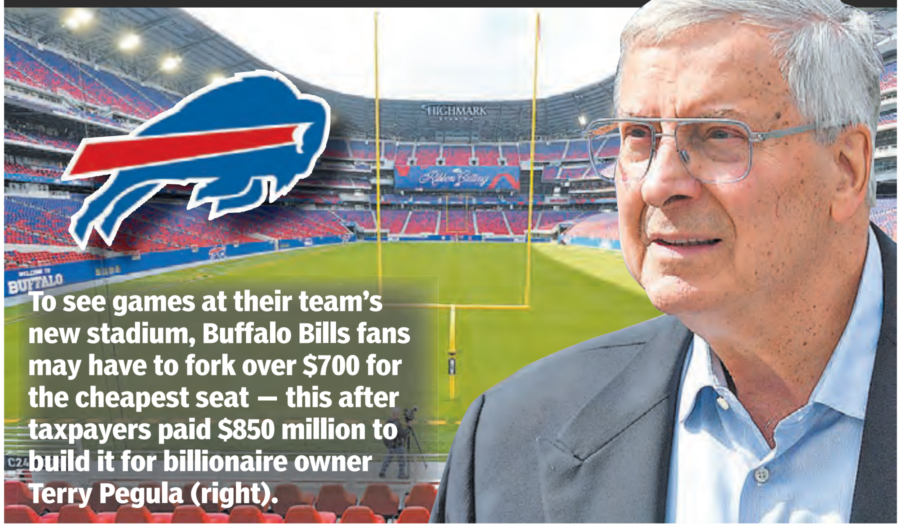
CBS News didn't respond to a request for comment. *Ariel Zilber*

Huge 'Bill$' for fans

Exorbitant ticket prices at new Buffalo stadium

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Seat belt



To see games at their team's new stadium, Buffalo Bills fans may have to fork over $700 for the cheapest seat — this after taxpayers paid $850 million to build it for billionaire owner Terry Pegula (right).

AP

Buffalo Bills fans are bashing "outrageous" ticket prices to see a home game at the team's flashy new Highmark Stadium, where the cheapest seats cost an eye-watering $700.

Bills Mafia from as far as Florida, Tennessee and Texas flocked to Orchard Park, NY, this week for the new stadium's ribbon-cutting ceremony — but many said they fear they won't be able to afford a ticket.

"Ticket prices are outrageous," one Bills fan told WIVB News 4, Buffalo's CBS affiliate.

As of Friday, the cheapest available for the Bills' regular season home opener on Sept. 17 was $702.10 on Ticketmaster, The Post found.

"If you have a family with one kid or two kids — four tickets — that's a lot of money," said a Bills fan visiting the stadium from the Sunshine State.

Another agreed, saying: "It's scary when you got a family of four or five and you've got to pay these kind of prices for tickets."

Many Bills devotees worried they might never see a game in the new stadium — for which taxpayers paid $850 million. It will be the home of the NFL franchise owned by billionaire Terry Pegula for at least 30 years.

"It's going to be impossible, almost, to get in here," one fan told WIVB.

Another said: "I probably will never see a game here."

The sky-high prices are reportedly being driven by the new stadium unveiling — a $2.1 billion, 60,000-seat project that broke ground in June 2023 — and heightened Bills fervor.

"It's because of the new stadium," Nick Giammusso, chief executive of VIPTix, a ticket reseller, told WIVB.

"It's a new stadium with demand from the Bills playing really well, and Josh Allen, and then you've got the away teams like Kansas City, New England, who fetch a higher price."

Giammusso said prices could change in the future, but fans who are eager to see a home game soon should set their sights on preseason tickets.

"You're talking $100 for Pittsburgh," he said.

The new Highmark Stadium, which was designed by architectural firm Populous, features a natural grass field instead of turf, underground heating coils to prevent the grass from freezing and the world's largest stadium snow-melt system, according to ESPN.

New Don tariff threat

President Trump on Friday threatened to greatly increase tariffs on European nations if they follow through on plans to impose new taxes on US tech companies.

"Numerous European Countries have been discussing the imminent implementation of a Digital Services Tax on American Companies," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Please let this statement serve to represent that any Country that imposes such a Tax will immediately be met with a 100% TARIFF on any and all Goods sent to the United States of America."

European countries for years have considered imposing taxes on large tech firms such as Amazon and Meta. Some already have such levies. The European Union and its member countries have the right to regulate economic activities on their territory, a spokesman said. *Dow Jones*

Feds probe Polymarket

Wall Street regulators are reportedly investigating prediction-market platform Polymarket.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is in the midst of a continuing investigation into Polymarket, a source told The Wall Street Journal.

A CFTC spokeswoman declined to confirm the existence of a probe, and the subject of the inquiry couldn't be determined. Polymarket declined to comment

This week the Journal reported that Polymarket paid social media influencers to promote fake bets.

That sparked senators to call for a federal investigation into Polymarket's marketing practices.

House lawmakers last month launched a probe into insider trading on Polymarket and rival Kalshi. Both platforms have said they ban insider trading. *Dow Jones*

VW eyes *100,000* job cuts

Volkswagen plans to slash up to 100,000 jobs and halt production at four German plants in a sweeping cost-cutting drive that could rank among the largest corporate layoffs in history.

The cuts, which were first reported by the German business daily Manager Magazin, would eliminate close to one in six of the automaker's roughly 625,000 roles worldwide as Europe's largest carmaker battles Chinese rivals, US tariffs and worsening profits.

The plan would accelerate VW's existing target to cut 50,000 jobs in Germany by 2030 and reduce domestic manufacturing capacity by 500,000 vehicles.

The new proposal could add another 50,000 job cuts, a source familiar with the plan told the Financial Times.

Production would end at VW sites in Emden, Zwickau and Hanover, plus an Audi factory in Neckarsulm.

A Volkswagen spokesperson declined to comment on the reports. "The Executive Board has repeatedly stated that our current business model no longer works across all brands: developing cars in Germany, producing them in Europe and exporting them to the world," the rep said in a statement.

Workers' reps blasted the proposal. *Ariel Zilber*

Slow rollout for new Chat

ChatGPT maker OpenAI said Friday it is restricting the release of its new artificial intelligence model at the request of President Trump's administration, the latest in an unprecedented vetting for cybersecurity risks.

OpenAI said its new AI product, called GPT-5.6 Sol, would be available for now only to a "small group of trusted partners" approved by the administration.

"We don't believe this kind of government access process should become the long-term default," OpenAI said. *AP*

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Happy Anniversary
Love
Paul E

4th of July Early Deadlines for Classified

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LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to the County Government Law of Nassau County, the Nassau County Legislature will hold a public hearing ON MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026 AT 1 PM, IN THE **PETER J. SCHMITT MEMORIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, 1st FLOOR, THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501** for a Proposed Local Law entitled:
A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN RELATION TO GRANTING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO VETERANS RATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISABLED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS. 31-26 (LE)
Copies of the proposed Local Law are on file and may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature during normal business hours BY ORDER of the Nassau County Legislature of the County of Nassau, New York.
Dated: June 22, 2026
Garden City (Mineola Post Office), NY
MICHAEL C. PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature
The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office orders a maximum occupancy of 251 people for the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber and an additional 71 people for the legislative antechamber. Attendees who will address the Legislature must submit a written slip to the Clerk's office staff. The Rules of the Legislature limit public comment to three minutes per person. At meetings of the full Legislature, members of the public may speak during the pre-calendar public comment period and during public hearings. At meetings of the Legislature's committees and prior to the call of the first committee, members of the public may speak and on agenda items only. Individuals may email the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov to have comment included in the record of the Legislative meeting. The Nassau County Legislature provides accessibility and reasonable accommodation to its public meetings for the attendance and participation of individuals with disabilities. Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 516.571.4252, the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 516.227.7101 or TDD Telephone 516.227.8989. The Legislature streams every meeting live at http://www.Nassau CountyNY.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Qualification of PHOENIX HEALTH THERAPY, PLLC Authority filed with the New York Secy of State (SSNY) on May 22, 2026. Principal business and office location: 39 Raspberry Lane, Levittown, NY 11756, Nassau County. LLC formed in SC on May 31, 2024. SSNY is designated as agent of the foreign professional service limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 2819 McLeod Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Address of office required to be maintained in the jurisdiction of organization: 2819 McLeod Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Certificate of Organization filed with the South Carolina Secy of State, located at 1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 525, Columbia, SC 29201. Purpose: Operate as a professional entity practicing the profession of Psychology.

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY DEVIATION FROM USCG REGULATIONS
EFFECTIVE FROM 21:30 ON JUNE 27, 2026 THROUGH 00:00 ON JUNE 28, 2026, THE LONG BEACH BRIDGE WILL REMAIN IN THE CLOSED POSITION.

LLC Formation Notices:

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NEW YORK POST

FIFA World Cup

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Mexico	3	2	0	0	3	0	6
y-South Africa	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
South Korea	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Czechia	3	0	1	3	2	6	1

GROUP A
Thursday, June 11
Mexico 2, South Africa 0
South Korea 2, Czechia 1
Thursday, June 18
Czechia 1, South Africa 1
Mexico 1, South Korea 0
Wednesday
Mexico 3, Czechia 0
South Africa 1, South Korea 0

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Switzerland	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
y-Canada	3	1	1	1	8	3	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Qatar	3	0	1	2	2	10	1

GROUP B
Friday, June 12
Canada 1, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Saturday, June 13
Qatar 1, Switzerland 1
Thursday, June 18
Switzerland 4, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Canada 6, Qatar 0
Wednesday
Switzerland 2, Canada 1
Bosnia-Herzegovina 3, Qatar 1

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Brazil	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
y-Morocco	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Scotland	3	1	0	1	1	4	3
Haiti	3	0	0	2	2	8	0

GROUP C
Saturday, June 13
Brazil 1, Morocco 1
Scotland 1, Haiti 0
Friday, June 19
Morocco 1, Scotland 0
Brazil 3, Haiti 0
Wednesday
Brazil 3, Scotland 0
Morocco 4, Haiti 2

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-United States	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**8**	**4**	**6**
y-Australia	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Paraguay	3	1	0	1	2	4	4
Turkey	3	1	0	2	3	2	3

GROUP D
Friday, June 12
United States 4, Paraguay 1
Sunday, June 14
Australia 2, Turkey 0
Friday, June 19
United States 2, Australia 0
Paraguay 1, Turkey 0
Thursday
Turkey 3, **United States** 2
Paraguay 0, Australia 0

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Germany	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
y-Ivory Coast	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
y-Ecuador	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Curacao	3	0	1	2	1	9	1

GROUP E
Sunday, June 14
Germany 7, Curacao 1
Ivory Coast 1, Ecuador 0
Saturday, June 20
Germany 2, Ivory Coast 1
Ecuador 0, Curacao 0
Thursday
Ecuador 2, Germany 1
Ivory Coast 2, Curacao 0

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Netherlands	3	2	1	0	10	4	7
y-Japan	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
y-Sweden	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Tunisia	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

GROUP F
Sunday, June 14
Netherlands 2, Japan 2
Sweden 5, Tunisia 1
Saturday, June 20
Netherlands 5, Sweden 1
Sunday, June 21
Japan 4, Tunisia 0
Thursday
Netherlands 3, Tunisia 1
Japan 1, Sweden 1

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Belgium	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
y-Egypt	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Iran	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
New Zealand	3	0	1	2	4	10	1

GROUP G
Monday, June 15
Belgium 1, Egypt 1
Iran 2, New Zealand 2
Sunday, June 21
Belgium 0, Iran 0
Egypt 3, New Zealand 1
Friday
Belgium 5, New Zealand 1
Egypt 1, Iran 1

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Spain	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
y-Cape Verde	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Uruguay	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Saudi Arabia	3	0	2	1	1	5	2

GROUP H
Monday, June 15
Spain 0, Cape Verde 0
Saudi Arabia 1, Uruguay 1
Sunday, June 21
Spain 4, Saudi Arabia 0
Uruguay 2, Cape Verde 2
Friday
Spain 1, Uruguay 0
Cape Verde 0, Saudi Arabia 0

GROUP I

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-France	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
y-Norway	3	2	0	1	8	7	6
Senegal	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
Iraq	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

GROUP I
Tuesday, June 16
France 3, Senegal 1
Iraq 1, Norway 4
Monday, June 22
France 3, Iraq 0
Norway 3, Senegal 2
Friday
France 4, Norway 1
Senegal 5, Iraq 0

GROUP J

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Argentina	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Austria	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Algeria	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Jordan	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

GROUP J
Tuesday, June 16
Argentina 3, Algeria 0
Wednesday, June 17
Austria 3, Jordan 1
Monday, June 22
Argentina 2, Austria 0
Algeria 2, Jordan 1
Saturday
Jordan vs. Argentina, 10pm
Algeria vs. Austria, 10pm

GROUP K

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Colombia	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Portugal	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Congo	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Uzbekistan	2	0	0	2	1	8	0

GROUP K
Wednesday, June 17
Portugal 1, Congo 1
Colombia 3 Uzbekistan 1
Tuesday
Portugal 5, Uzbekistan 0
Colombia 1, Congo 0
Saturday
Colombia vs. Portugal, 7:30pm
Congo vs. Uzbekistan, 7:30pm

GROUP L

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Ghana	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Croatia	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Panama	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

GROUP L
Wednesday, June 17
England 4, Croatia 2
Ghana 1, Panama 0
Tuesday
England 0, Ghana 0
Croatia 1, Panama 0
Saturday
Panama vs. England, 5pm
Croatia vs. Ghana, 5pm

x-Clinched group, y-advances to the round of 32

ROUND OF 32
Sunday
South Africa vs. Canada, 3pm
Monday
Brazil vs. Japan, 1pm
Germany vs. TBD, 4:30pm
Netherlands vs. Morocco, 9pm
Tuesday
Ivory Coast vs. Norway, 1pm
France vs. TBD, 5pm
Mexico vs. TBD, 9pm
Wednesday
TBD vs. TBD, 12pm
TBD vs. TBD, 4pm
United States vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina, 8pm
Thursday, July 2
TBD vs. Spain, 3pm
TBD vs. TBD 7pm
Switzerland vs. TBD, 11pm
Friday, July 3
Australia vs. TBD, 2pm
Argentina vs. Cape Verde, 6pm
TBD vs. TBD, 9:30pm

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Yankees	48	33	.593	—	—	4-6	L-2	22-15	26-18
Tampa Bay	46	33	.582	1	+7½	5-5	W-3	29-12	17-21
Toronto	39	43	.476	9½	1	5-5	L-4	22-22	17-21
Baltimore	39	44	.470	10	1½	5-5	W-1	23-19	16-25
Boston	34	46	.425	13½	5	5-5	W-2	14-25	20-21

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	42	38	.525	—	—	4-6	W-1	27-13	15-25
Cleveland	42	40	.512	1	+2	3-7	L-1	19-18	23-22
Minnesota	39	44	.470	4½	1½	6-4	W-1	21-22	18-22
Detroit	35	47	.427	8	5	5-5	W-1	23-19	12-28
Kansas City	34	49	.410	9½	6½	5-5	L-3	19-22	15-27

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	42	41	.506	—	—	5-5	W-1	22-19	20-22
Athletics	40	42	.488	1½	—	4-6	W-2	18-23	22-19
Texas	40	42	.488	1½	—	5-5	W-2	19-18	21-24
Houston	40	44	.476	2½	1	7-3	L-1	20-21	20-23
Los Angeles	34	49	.410	8	6½	5-5	L-1	19-22	15-27

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Boston 6, **Yankees** 1
Detroit 8, Houston 0
Tampa Bay 6, Arizona 1
Baltimore 3, Washington 1
Seattle 3, Cleveland 1
Texas 5, Toronto 4
White Sox 22, Kansas City 1
Minnesota 9, Colorado 8, 10 inn.
Athletics 9, L.A. Angels 3

Saturday

Yankees at Boston, 1:10
Houston at Detroit, 1:10
Texas at Toronto, 3:07
Kansas City at White Sox, 4:10
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 6:10
Washington at Baltimore, 7:05
Colorado at Minnesota, 7:10
Seattle at Cleveland, 7:10
Athletics at L.A. Angels, 9:38

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	49	31	.613	—	—	3-7	W-1	24-14	25-17
Philadelphia	46	36	.561	4	+2	7-3	W-4	23-19	23-17
Miami	43	39	.524	7	1	7-3	W-3	28-17	15-22
Washington	41	42	.494	9½	3½	3-7	L-4	17-25	24-17
Mets	34	48	.415	16	10	2-8	L-7	18-23	16-25

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	50	29	.633	—	—	7-3	W-5	26-15	24-14
Chicago	44	38	.537	7½	—	7-3	L-1	23-17	21-21
St. Louis	42	37	.532	8	½	4-6	L-3	22-20	20-17
Pittsburgh	41	41	.500	10½	3	5-5	L-1	22-21	19-20
Cincinnati	38	42	.475	12½	5	5-5	W-1	19-22	19-20

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	52	30	.634	—	—	7-3	L-1	26-14	26-16
San Diego	43	37	.538	8	—	6-4	W-4	23-19	20-18
Arizona	41	40	.506	10½	2½	5-5	L-1	24-17	17-23
San Francisco	33	48	.407	18½	10½	5-5	L-2	16-22	17-26
Colorado	32	50	.390	20	12	5-5	L-1	18-22	14-28

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Philadelphia 2, **Mets** 1
Tampa Bay 6, Arizona 1
Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 4
Baltimore 3, Washington 1
Milwaukee 6, Cubs 2
Miami 4, St. Louis 0
Minnesota 9, Colorado 8, 10 inn.
San Diego 7, L.A. Dodgers 1
Atlanta 3, San Francisco 1

Saturday

Philadelphia at **Mets**, 4:10
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 4:05
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 6:10
Washington at Baltimore, 7:05
Cubs at Milwaukee, 7:10
Colorado at Minnesota, 7:10
Miami at St. Louis, 7:15
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 8:40
Atlanta at San Francisco, 9:05

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 30

8	2	7	9	5	3	6	1	4
9	4	1	6	8	7	2	3	5
6	3	5	2	4	1	7	8	9
7	8	9	5	3	4	1	6	2
4	1	2	8	7	6	9	5	3
3	5	6	1	9	2	4	7	8
5	6	3	7	2	9	8	4	1
1	9	8	4	6	5	3	2	7
2	7	4	3	1	8	5	9	6

Solution to Very Easy #7,322

6	4	7	3	9	2	8	5	1
2	9	3	5	1	8	7	6	4
5	8	1	6	4	7	3	9	2
9	2	8	1	6	5	4	7	3
4	3	5	2	7	9	6	1	8
1	7	6	8	3	4	9	2	5
3	1	9	4	2	6	5	8	7
7	5	2	9	8	3	1	4	6
8	6	4	7	5	1	2	3	9

Solution to Difficult #7,112

Red Sox 6, Yankees 1

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.295
Rosario dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Rice ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.280
Bellinger lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.264
Domínguez rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.234
Caballero 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.256
Chisholm 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Volpe ss	3	1	1	0	0	2	.262
Jones cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.226
Sánchez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Wells ph-c	1	0	0	1	0	0	.164
Totals	30	1	3	1	2	7	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gasper dh	4	0	0	1	0	0	.243
Rafaela cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.281
Abreu rf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.272
Contreras 1b	3	1	2	2	1	1	.281
Duran lf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.201
Durbin 3b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.229
Seigler 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.321
Wong c	2	0	1	2	1	0	.275
Cheng ss	3	0	1	1	1	0	.333
Totals	31	6	9	6	4	2	

Yankees	000 000 010 —	1	3	0
Boston	121 001 01x —	6	9	0

LOB: New York 4, Boston 6. **2B:** Volpe (6), Domínguez (7), Cheng (1), Durbin (17). **3B:** Abreu (3). **HR:** Contreras (17), off Warren. **RBIs:** Wells (9), Contreras 2 (48), Cheng (1), Gasper (7), Wong 2 (14). **SB:** Duran (12). **CS:** Cheng (1). **SF:** Wong. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 2 (Chisholm, Caballero); Boston 1 (Gasper). **RISP:** New York 0 for 4; Boston 2 for 8.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Warren, L, 7-3	5.2	7	5	5	3	0	90	3.75
Yarbrough	1.1	1	1	1	1	1	22	4.02
De los Santos	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	1.35

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Tolle, W, 4-5	7.0	1	0	0	2	7	88	2.78
Kahnle	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	21	4.50
Watson	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	4.84

T: 2:21. **A:** 33,353 (37,755).

Mariners 3, Guardians 1

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arozarena lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.285
Rodríguez cf	4	0	1	1	0	2	.247
Raleigh c	3	1	0	0	1	3	.165
Canzone dh	2	0	0	0	2	2	.272
Naylor 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Crawford 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.224
Refsnyder rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.133
Raley rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.241
Robles rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Young 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Emerson ss	2	2	1	1	2	1	.212
Totals	30	3	6	3	6	13	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.255
Manzardo 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.233
Rocchio ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.269
Watson rf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.240
Ingle dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Schneemann 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Hoskins ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Arias 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.192
Kwan lf-cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.213
Bailey c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.179
Fry ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.209
Halpin cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.180
Hedges ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.264
Totals	30	1	4	1	1	7	

Seattle	001 000 110 —	3	6	1
Cleveland	100 000 000 —	1	4	0

E: Castillo (1). **LOB:** Seattle 6, Cleveland 3. **2B:** Arozarena (19), Watson (1). **HR:** Emerson (7), off Cantillo. **RBIs:** Emerson (17), Crawford (25), Rodríguez (39), Watson (7). **CS:** Emerson (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 3 (Emerson, Canzone, Rodríguez); Cleveland 1 (Ingle). **RISP:** Seattle 2 for 7; Cleveland 0 for 1.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Castillo, W, 3-6	6.0	4	1	1	1	4	91	4.93
Ferrer, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.65
Speier, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1.80
Muñoz, S, 15-20	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	4.91

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cantillo	6.0	2	1	1	2	9	90	3.87
Herrin, L, 0-3	1.0	1	1	1	2	0	23	3.25
Espino	0.1	1	1	1	2	1	18	11.57
Gaddis	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	8	3.57
Festa	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	18	4.09

T: 2:36. **A:** 32,832 (34,788).

Phillies 2, Mets 1

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.235
Schwarber dh	3	0	1	0	1	0	.256
Harper 1b	4	0	3	1	0	0	.275
Bohm 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Marsh rf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.319
Hill cf-rf	4	1	1	0	0	3	.250
Realmuto c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.204
Stott 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.239
Sosa lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Crawford ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Totals	34	2	9	2	2	9	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Benge rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.256
Soto lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.294
Bichette dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.254
Lindor ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.216
Young 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.242
Ewing cf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.264
Mauricio 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Baty 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Torrens c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Alvarez ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.256
Totals	31	1	5	1	1	7	

Philadelphia	100 000 100 —	2	9	1
Mets	000 100 000 —	1	5	1

E: Turner (10), Baty (6). **LOB:** Philadelphia 7, New York 4. **2B:** Turner (14), Realmuto (9), Bichette (13). **RBIs:** Harper (48), Turner (24), Young (14). **SB:** Stott (16). **CS:** Ewing 2 (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 5 (Hill 2, Stott, Crawford, Schwarber); New York 1 (Baty). **RISP:** Philadelphia 3 for 12; New York 1 for 4.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler, W, 8-1	7.0	4	1	1	1	5	98	2.03
Kerkering, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.84
Duran, S, 20-21	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	17	1.63

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Thornton	6.0	5	1	1	1	7	78	4.35
Brazobán, L, 4-2	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	18	1.99
Pérez	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	21	4.99

T: 2:20. **A:** 39,077 (42,136).

Orioles 3, Nationals 1

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.260
Mead 3b-2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.224
Chaparro 1b-3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.146
Vivas ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.282
Crews lf-cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.230
Lile dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.249
J.Young cf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.229
Tena ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Nuñez 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.238
García ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Ruiz c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.276
Totals	32	1	5	1	0	10	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	5	1	3	0	0	1	.262
Henderson ss	5	0	0	0	0	1	.224
Alonso 1b	2	0	0	0	2	2	.252
Mayo dh	4	1	2	1	0	0	.195
O'Neill rf	2	1	1	0	2	1	.188
Cowser cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Basallo c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.252
Taveras cf-rf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.252
Holliday 2b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.202
Alexander 3b	3	0	1	2	1	2	.305
Totals	31	3	8	3	7	12	

Washington	000 010 000 —	1	5	1
Baltimore	000 200 10x —	3	8	1

E: García (4), Henderson (8). **LOB:** Washington 4, Baltimore 11. **2B:** Wood (20), J.Young (9), Crews (5), O'Neill (6), Mayo 2 (9). **RBIs:** Ruiz (30), Alexander 2 (25), Mayo (31). **CS:** Taveras (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 2 (Crews, García); Baltimore 5 (Basallo 3, Henderson, Alonso). **RISP:** Washington 2 for 9; Baltimore 3 for 12.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alvarez, L, 1-1	4.1	6	2	2	3	5	88	3.44
Lord	2.2	2	1	1	3	5	59	3.31
Kent	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	24	5.23

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers, W, 5-7	6.1	5	1	1	0	7	87	4.99
Wells, H, 11	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	6	3.19
Wolfram, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.47
Helsley, S, 8-9	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.40

T: 2:34. **A:** 26,901 (45,971).

Tigers 8, Astros 0

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.289
Alvarez dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.314
Meyers ph-p	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202
Paredes 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.246
Delgado 3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.286
Walker 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Altuve 2b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.240
Matthews 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.199
Loperfido lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.226
Diaz c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Smith rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Trammell cf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.274
Totals	31	0	5	0	2	5	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle ss	2	2	1	0	2	0	.284
Lee 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Dingler c	4	0	1	1	0	2	.268
Carpenter rf	4	1	1	2	0	3	.220
Malgeri rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Greene dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.288
Torkelson 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.207
Keith 3b	3	1	1	1	1	0	.252
McKinstry 2b-ss	2	1	0	0	2	0	.177
Vierling lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.203
Outman cf	2	2	1	3	1	0	.165
Totals	28	8	6	7	7	9	

Houston	000 000 000 —	0	5	1
Detroit	003 500 00x —	8	6	2

E: Diaz (1), McGonigle (8), Dingler (3). **LOB:** Houston 6, Detroit 3. **2B:** Diaz (7). **HR:** Carpenter (11), off Arrighetti; Keith (5), off Arrighetti; Outman (2), off Arrighetti. **RBIs:** Carpenter 2 (31), Keith (18), Outman 3 (8), Dingler (58). **SB:** McGonigle (11). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 4 (Loperfido, Smith 2, Paredes); Detroit 1 (Vierling). **RISP:** Houston 0 for 5; Detroit 3 for 5.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti, L, 7-4	3.0	5	8	8	5	7	93	4.00
Pearson	3.0	1	0	0	2	1	48	3.07
Abreu	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	6.15
Meyers	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.00

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montero, W, 4-5	7.0	5	0	0	1	3	96	3.39
De Jesús	2.0	0	0	0	1	2	27	3.98

T: 2:31. **A:** 30,036 (41,083).

Rangers 5, Blue Jays 4

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Langford cf	5	1	3	0	0	0	.278
Jung 3b	4	1	0	0	0	3	.292
Nimmo rf	5	1	1	1	0	2	.264
Kelenic lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Burger 1b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.253
Foscue dh	4	1	2	3	0	1	.268
Duran ss	4	0	2	1	0	0	.265
Higashioka c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.228
Díaz c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.280
Osuna lf-rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.252
Lopez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.308
Totals	35	5	9	5	3	10	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Springer dh	4	1	0	0	1	1	.216
Lukes rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.297
Straw ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Guerrero 1b	4	1	2	2	0	0	.276
Okamoto 3b	4	1	2	2	0	2	.245
Varsho cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.263
Clement 2b-lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.297
Sánchez lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.274
Schneider ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.153
Kirk ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.192
Urías 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Valenzuela c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.245
Giménez ss	4	1	2	0	0	1	.235
Totals	35	4	9	4	3	11	

Texas	302 000 000 —	5	9	0
Toronto	000 000 040 —	4	9	0

LOB: Texas 7, Toronto 7. **2B:** Nimmo (20), Langford (8), Giménez (13). **HR:** Foscue (5), off Corbin; Okamoto (19), off Junis. **RBIs:** Nimmo (29), Foscue 3 (13), Duran (41), Guerrero 2 (34), Okamoto 2 (53). **SB:** Langford (6), Duran (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 4 (Lopez, Jung, Osuna 2); Toronto 1 (Valenzuela). **RISP:** Texas 3 for 12; Toronto 2 for 7.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi, W, 8-7	7.0	5	0	0	1	9	92	3.95
Ahlstrom	0.1	1	2	2	1	0	15	2.79
Junis	0.2	3	2	2	0	2	23	2.62
Latz, S, 16-18	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	1.85

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Corbin, L, 2-4	4.1	7	5	5	1	5	94	5.09
Miles	2.2	1	0	0	0	3	35	3.00
Macko	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	31	1.38
Varland	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	0.82

T: 2:57. **A:** 41,689 (39,150).

Rays 6, Diamondbacks 1

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Perdomo ss	4	1	2	1	0	1	.237
Carroll rf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.282
Moreno c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.283
Arenado 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.239
Kepler lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Vargas ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Barrosa cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.179
Gurriel dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Smith 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.154
Troy cf-lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Totals	34	1	8	1	1	4	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	3	2	2	1	1	0	.334
Aranda 1b	3	1	1	1	0	0	.288
Caminero 3b	3	1	1	3	1	0	.285
Palacios 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.235
DeLuca rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Mullins cf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.205
Mesa lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.170
Walls ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Feduccia c	3	1	1	0	0	0	.229
Totals	30	6	6	6	2	0	

Arizona	100 000 000 —	1	8	0
Tampa Bay	300 000 30x —	6	6	0

LOB: Arizona 7, Tampa Bay 3. **2B:** Díaz (15), Feduccia (4), Aranda (13). **3B:** Carroll (10). **HR:** Perdomo (5), off Martinez; Caminero (20), off Gallen; Mullins (7), off Gallen. **RBIs:** Perdomo (28), Caminero 3 (46), Mullins (23), Díaz (52), Aranda (55). **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 4 (Vargas, Smith, Gurriel, Arenado); Tampa Bay 2 (Caminero, DeLuca). **RISP:** Arizona 0 for 8; Tampa Bay 2 for 6.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gallen, L, 3-7	6.2	4	5	5	2	0	86	6.15
Burgos	1.1	2	1	1	0	0	20	6.75

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martinez, W, 7-2	5.2	6	1	1	0	3	85	2.66
Booser, H, 2	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.96
K.Kelly, H, 17	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	2.45
Cleavinger	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	4.22
Kimbrel	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	22	5.57

T: 2:17. **A:** 12,972 (25,025).

Reds 6, Pirates 4

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Dunn cf	2	0	1	1	0	1	.282
Myers cf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.250
De La Cruz ss	3	0	0	1	0	1	.273
Bleday lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.239
Stewart 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.249
N.Lowe dh	3	1	1	0	0	1	.257
Marte ph-dh	1	1	1	2	0	0	.210
Suárez 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.209
Steer rf	4	1	1	1	0	3	.240
Stephenson c	4	1	2	1	0	0	.218
McLain 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.198
Totals	33	6	8	6	2	13	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Griffin ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.275
B.Lowe 2b	4	0	0	1	0	2	.246
Reynolds lf-rf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.289
Ozuna dh	3	1	2	1	1	0	.208
O'Hearn 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.281
Valdez rf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.189
Cook pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.154
Triolo 3b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Gonzales ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.295
Mangum cf-lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.301
Davis c	2	1	0	0	0	0	.146
Rodríguez ph-c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Totals	35	4	9	4	2	10	

Cincinnati	040 000 020 —	6	8	1
Pittsburgh	100 012 000 —	4	9	0

E: Suárez (2). **LOB:** Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 8. **2B:** N.Lowe (12). **HR:** Marte (4), off Montgomery; Griffin (5), off Abbott; Ozuna (7), off Abbott; Valdez (3), off Abbott. **RBIs:** Steer (34), Stephenson (23), Dunn (7), De La Cruz (38), Marte 2 (6), Griffin (23), B.Lowe (52), Ozuna (26), Valdez (7). **CS:** Mangum (5). **SF:** Dunn, De La Cruz, B.Lowe. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 1 (Stewart); Pittsburgh 1 (Mangum). **RISP:** Cincinnati 3 for 4; Pittsburgh 0 for 3.

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abbott	5.1	6	4	3	1	6	94	3.90
Antone	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	17	2.38
Burke, W, 3-3	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	20	2.82
Johnson, H, 5	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	13	3.09
Ferguson, S, 1-1	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	1.32

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes	5.0	6	4	4	2	7	96	3.10
Bidois	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.80
Mattson	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.75
Montgomery, L, 2-3	0.2	2	2	2	0	2	23	4.83
Santana	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	14	4.86

T: 2:58. **A:** 25,186 (38,753).

White Sox 22, Royals 1

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Witt dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.291
Caglianone rf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.269
Thomas cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.216
Massey 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.261
S.Perez 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.199
Rojas ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.308
Loftin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Collins lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.226
Totals	**29**	**1**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**10**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf-2b	5	2	3	0	1	1	.294
Vargas 3b	6	2	3	5	0	1	.246
Eisert p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Richards p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Teel c	5	2	2	3	1	1	.250
Benintendi dh	4	2	2	1	0	1	.237
J.Perez ph-lf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.273
C.Montgomery ss	3	1	1	0	1	2	.221
Acuña ss	2	1	2	0	0	0	.222
Meidroth 2b-3b	5	3	4	2	1	1	.276
B.Montgomery rf	5	2	0	0	1	2	.226
Peters cf	5	3	2	6	1	0	.289
Gonzalez 1b	4	3	3	5	1	0	.228
Totals	**46**	**22**	**23**	**22**	**7**	**9**	

Kansas City	**000 100 000 —**	**1**	**4**	**1**
Chicago	**00(10) 124 50x —**	**22**	**23**	**0**

E: S.Perez (4). **LOB:** Kansas City 4, Chicago 7. **2B:** Collins (12), Benintendi (11), Vargas (13), Gonzalez (1). **3B:** Caglianone (2). **HR:** Vargas (18), off Spence; Gonzalez (2), off Spence; Benintendi (10), off Way; Teel (1), off Erceg; Peters (4), off Schreiber. **RBIs:** Vargas 5 (50), Meidroth 2 (27), Peters 6 (30), Gonzalez 5 (10), Benintendi (39), Teel 3 (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 4 (Witt, Thomas 2, S.Perez); Chicago 4 (Peters 2, J.Perez, Teel). **RISP:** Kansas City 0 for 7; Chicago 9 for 20.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cruz	1.1	0	0	0	1	3	28	5.92
Spence, L, 0-2	1.1	8	10	10	3	2	53	21.21
Way	1.1	2	1	1	0	2	23	4.26
Erceg	1.0	2	2	2	0	0	15	5.58
Schreiber	1.0	5	4	3	0	1	26	3.31
Lange	0.1	4	5	5	2	1	26	5.09
Lynch	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	9	2.41
Tolbert	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	10	0.00

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sandlin, W, 2-1	6.0	3	1	1	3	6	91	6.05
Hicks	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	18	5.30
Eisert	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	5.23
Richards	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	4.00

T: 2:54.

Brewers 6, Cubs 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.284
Bregman 3b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.244
Busch 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.237
Suzuki dh	2	1	1	2	1	1	.260
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.227
Hoerner 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Kelly c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.277
Shaw rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Conforto ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.229
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.196
Totals	**28**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**7**	**8**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	5	0	2	1	0	1	.261
Chourio lf	5	1	2	0	0	0	.299
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.258
Contreras c	3	1	2	2	1	1	.306
Bauers rf-1b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.269
Vaughn 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.342
Frelick rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.236
Mitchell cf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.248
Pratt ss	2	2	1	0	2	0	.276
Hamilton 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.234
Totals	**33**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**5**	**8**	

Chicago	**000 010 010 —**	**2**	**3**	**1**
Milwaukee	**000 003 21x —**	**6**	**11**	**0**

E: Kelly (6). **LOB:** Chicago 7, Milwaukee 9. **2B:** Pratt (1), Chourio (14), Yelich (10). **3B:** Hamilton (2). **HR:** Suzuki (11), off Misiorowski; Mitchell (6), off Roberts; Contreras (9), off Murray. **RBIs:** Suzuki 2 (33), Mitchell 2 (36), Hamilton (13), Contreras 2 (50), Yelich (25). **SB:** Frelick (6), Pratt (5). **SF:** Suzuki. **S:** Turang. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 4 (Swanson, Shaw, Happ 2); Milwaukee 7 (Mitchell, Yelich 2, Turang 2, Vaughn 2). **RISP:** Chicago 0 for 4; Milwaukee 2 for 15.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rea	5.0	5	1	1	3	4	89	4.80
Roberts, L, 0-2, BS, 0-1	1.0	2	2	2	1	0	14	3.86
Murray	2.0	4	3	3	1	4	46	9.37

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Misiorowski, W, 9-3	6.0	2	1	1	4	8	107	1.45
Uribe, H, 11	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	3.26
Ashby	1.0	0	1	1	2	0	15	3.17
Megill	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	26	3.60

T: 2:55. **A:** 41,021 (41,700).

Marlins 4, Cardinals 0

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marsee cf	5	0	1	2	0	0	.198
Conine rf	3	0	1	0	2	1	.222
Edwards 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.293
Stowers 1b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.224
Lopez ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.335
Caissie dh	2	0	1	0	0	0	.231
Hernández ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Mack c	3	1	0	0	1	0	.252
Ruiz lf	3	2	2	0	1	0	.273
Pauley 3b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.169
Totals	**33**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**5**	**4**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Herrera c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.259
Burleson 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.285
Walker rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.290
Nootbaar lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.290
Winn ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Church cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Jordan 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Fermín dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.278
Totals	**29**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**7**	

Miami	**000 000 022 —**	**4**	**8**	**0**
St. Louis	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**3**	**0**

LOB: Miami 7, St. Louis 5. **2B:** Pauley (7), Fermín (6). **RBIs:** Pauley (10), Stowers (30), Marsee 2 (21). **SB:** Ruiz 2 (16). **CS:** Walker (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 4 (Lopez 3, Stowers); St. Louis 3 (Herrera, Church 2). **RISP:** Miami 2 for 8; St. Louis 0 for 5.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Meyer, W, 9-0	7.0	2	0	0	2	5	89	2.60
Petersen, H, 12	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	19	3.09
Faucher	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.48

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McGreevy	6.0	5	0	0	1	4	94	3.12
Romero	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3.86
Soriano, L, 3-2	1.0	2	2	2	2	0	27	3.48
Rajcic	0.2	1	2	2	2	0	25	6.35
Bruihl	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.11

T: 2:39. **A:** 27,584 (44,494).

Twins 9, Rockies 8, 10 inn.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy rf-lf	5	2	3	2	0	1	.303
Moniak lf	4	0	0	1	0	0	.275
Karros ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.252
Fulford pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.231
Senzatela p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Herget p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Goodman c	4	1	1	3	0	1	.240
Rumfield 1b	3	0	2	1	2	0	.288
Castro 3b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.280
Johnston dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.314
Freeman ph-dh-rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.277
Carrigg cf	4	1	0	0	1	1	.250
Tovar ss	5	1	1	0	0	1	.208
Julien 2b	4	2	1	1	1	1	.223
Totals	**40**	**8**	**11**	**8**	**4**	**8**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.280
Kreidler ss	1	0	1	0	0	0	.289
Buxton cf	5	2	3	2	0	0	.276
Clemens 2b-rf	4	2	1	2	1	0	.241
Bell dh	5	0	1	2	0	0	.244
Fedko pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000
Caratini c	4	0	0	0	1	1	.237
Lewis 1b	5	1	3	1	0	1	.217
Lee 3b	4	1	1	2	0	0	.240
Gray ss-2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Keaschall rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Martin lf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.245
Totals	**40**	**9**	**14**	**9**	**2**	**4**	

Colorado	**000 000 035 0 —**	**8**	**11**	**1**
Minnesota	**220 030 001 1 —**	**9**	**14**	**0**

E: Halvorsen (1). **LOB:** Colorado 8, Minnesota 7. **2B:** McCarthy (14), Tovar (15), Julien (6), Karros (14), Rumfield (16), Larnach (13), Buxton (15), Bell (16), Lewis (7). **HR:** McCarthy (6), off Orze; Goodman (22), off Banda; Clemens (12), off Sugano; Lee (14), off Sugano. **RBIs:** Moniak (29), Goodman 3 (42), Rumfield (44), Julien (18), McCarthy 2 (34), Clemens 2 (32), Lee 2 (47), Buxton 2 (43), Bell 2 (51), Lewis (22). **SF:** Goodman. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 4 (Freeman 2, Rumfield, Tovar); Minnesota 3 (Bell, Caratini, Lee). **RISP:** Colorado 4 for 15; Minnesota 4 for 8.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sugano	5.0	8	7	7	1	2	85	4.80
Halvorsen	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.12
Mejia	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	6.56
Brebbia	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	22	0.00
Senzatela, BS, 3-7	1.0	3	1	1	0	1	20	2.28
Herget, L, 0-2	0.0	1	1	0	1	0	3	4.19

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradley	7.0	3	2	2	3	7	99	3.98
Funderburk	1.0	3	1	1	0	1	20	3.72
Orze	0.1	2	3	3	1	0	14	5.35
Banda, BS, 2-4	0.2	3	2	2	0	0	11	4.54
Morris, W, 3-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.17

T: 2:58. **A:** 27,317 (38,544).

Padres 7, Dodgers 1

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.294
Pages cf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.267
Freeman 1b	3	0	2	0	1	1	.286
Betts ss	3	1	1	1	1	0	.231
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Call ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.269
Tucker rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Rojas ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Edman lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.360
Rushing c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Freeland 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Totals	**30**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**6**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	5	0	2	1	0	2	.285
Taylor lf	3	0	0	0	2	1	.361
Merrill cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Machado 3b	2	1	1	0	2	0	.186
Sheets dh	3	1	1	0	1	0	.225
Bowen pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.133
Bogaerts ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	.227
France 1b	2	1	1	3	1	0	.255
Andujar 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Wagner 2b	1	0	0	0	2	0	.267
Song pr-2b	1	1	1	2	0	0	.222
Durán c	4	1	1	1	0	0	.143
Totals	**28**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**9**	**4**	

Los Angeles	**010 000 000 —**	**1**	**7**	**0**
San Diego	**030 000 04x —**	**7**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Los Angeles 6, San Diego 7. **2B:** Freeman (20), Machado (14), Tatis (15), Durán (4). **HR:** Betts (10), off Buehler; France (10), off Sasaki. **RBIs:** Betts (22), France 3 (29), Song 2 (8), Durán (8), Tatis (29). **SB:** Merrill (16). **CS:** Pages (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 3 (Freeland, Tucker 2); San Diego 2 (Durán 2). **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 4; San Diego 4 for 10.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sasaki, L, 3-5	4.0	3	3	3	5	2	81	4.88
Dreyer	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	7	3.69
Stewart	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	2.25
Henriquez	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.84
Hernández	1.0	4	4	4	2	1	30	8.27

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Buehler, W, 5-3	5.1	3	1	1	3	5	74	3.81
Matsui, H, 1	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	11	1.63
Adam, H, 17	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	17	2.37
Morejon, H, 14	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	9	3.43
Peralta	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	1.77

T: 2:38. **A:** 43,153 (40,222).

Athletics 9, Angels 3

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bolte cf	4	2	1	2	0	1	.317
Kurtz 1b	5	2	2	2	0	2	.280
Langeliers c	5	0	2	1	0	2	.266
Soderstrom lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.243
Heim dh	4	1	1	1	0	0	.243
Butler rf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.194
Muncy 3b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.237
McNeil 2b	4	1	1	2	0	0	.237
Williams ss	4	1	1	1	0	2	.302
Totals	**36**	**9**	**10**	**9**	**2**	**10**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	5	1	1	0	0	1	.228
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	0	1	1	.261
Adell rf-cf	5	1	1	2	0	2	.247
Soler dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.217
Meckler lf-rf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.290
Guzman 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.254
Walton 2b	3	0	1	1	0	1	.329
Grissom ph-2b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.235
O'Hoppe c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.234
Lowe cf	3	0	2	0	0	1	.197
Moore ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**4**	**11**	

Athletics	**000 070 200 —**	**9**	**10**	**0**
Los Angeles	**000 120 000 —**	**3**	**9**	**2**

E: Lowe (2), O'Hoppe (5). **LOB:** Athletics 3, Los Angeles 9. **2B:** Heim (9), Meckler (7), Schanuel (14). **HR:** Adell (11), off Ginn. **RBIs:** McNeil 2 (22), Williams (7), Bolte 2 (12), Kurtz 2 (64), Langeliers (43), Heim (19), Walton (12), Adell 2 (43). **SB:** Langeliers (2), Bolte (10). **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 3 (Butler 2, Heim); Los Angeles 5 (Moore 2, Soler, Adell 2). **RISP:** Athletics 8 for 12; Los Angeles 1 for 11.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ginn, W, 6-4	6.0	8	3	3	1	5	89	3.15
Medina	1.1	1	0	0	2	3	38	4.14
Harris	0.2	0	0	0	1	2	15	3.58
Alvarado	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	5.91

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ureña, L, 5-6	4.1	6	7	7	2	5	71	3.14
Suter	2.1	4	2	1	0	2	52	4.12
Fermin	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.86
Yates	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.24

T: 2:56. **A:** 29,089 (45,517).

Braves 3, Giants 1

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.304
Dubón lf	5	2	2	0	0	1	.267
Olson 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.273
Albies 2b	3	0	1	2	0	0	.281
Baldwin c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.265
Riley 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.215
Do.Smith dh	3	0	1	1	1	0	.280
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Kim ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.072
Totals	**35**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**6**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.321
Eldridge dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.277
Schmitt lf	4	1	0	0	0	0	.290
Devers 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.236
J.Lee cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.327
Adames ss	3	0	2	0	1	0	.229
Chapman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.239
Cavanaugh c	3	0	1	0	1	1	.333
Bericoto rf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.250
Gilbert ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Totals	**32**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**5**	

Atlanta	**011 010 000 —**	**3**	**8**	**0**
San Francisco	**100 000 000 —**	**1**	**7**	**2**

E: Arraez (4), Houser (1). **LOB:** Atlanta 8, San Francisco 9. **2B:** Olson (20), Arraez (17), Devers (24), Eldridge (10), Adames (20). **RBIs:** Do.Smith (32), Albies 2 (44), Devers (39). **SB:** Dubón (2). **SF:** Albies. **S:** Arraez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 4 (Albies, Riley 2, Baldwin); San Francisco 7 (Chapman, Schmitt 5, J.Lee). **RISP:** Atlanta 2 for 7; San Francisco 0 for 8.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
López	3.0	4	1	1	0	1	57	3.47
Dodd	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.70
Waldrep, H, 1	2.0	2	0	0	4	3	55	0.00
D.Lee, W, 4-0	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	13	0.99
Fuentes, H, 6	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	2.32
Iglesias, S, 16-16	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.37

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McDonald, L, 2-6	5.1	7	3	3	1	3	90	4.94
Gage	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	12	3.81
Hentges	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.63
Houser	2.1	0	0	0	0	1	35	5.53

T: 2:34. **A:** 39,051 (41,915).

Soccer

NWSL Challenge Cup- Final
Gotham FC 2, Kansas City Current 0
Irish Premier Division
Shamrock Rovers 3, Galway United 1
Derry City 2, Drogheda United 0
Waterford 3, Dundalk 2
Bohemians 2, St Patrick's Athletic 0

DP World Tour Schedule

June 25-28 — DS Automobiles 83° Open d*Italia, Fiano, Italy
July 2-5 — BMW International Open, Munich
July 9-12 — ISCO Championship, Louisville, Ky.
July 9-12 — Genesis Scottish Open, North Berwick, United Kingdom
July 16-19 — The Open Championship, Southport, United Kingdom
July 16-19 — Corales Puntacana Championship, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Friday's Crossword Answers

O	T	S			M	A	T	H		
M	E	E	T		S	N	E	A	D	
I	S	A	O		G	O	A	W	O	L
T	H	U	M	B		A	M	A	R	E
			G	O	O		C	I	A	O
	C	O	L	E	T	R	A	I	N	
P	A	P	A		B	A	N			
G	R	E	V	O		D	A	B	E	S
S	O	N	I	C	S		D	O	Z	O
	N	E	N	A	D		A	Z	R	A
		R	E	B	S			O	A	R

Today's Sports on the Air

	MLB BASEBALL	
1:10 p.m.	Yankees at Red Sox	ABC, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
4 p.m.	Royals at White Sox	MLBN
4:10 p.m.	Phillies at Mets	SNY, 880 AM
8:30 p.m.	Dodgers at Padres	MLBN
	NHL HOCKEY	
11 a.m.	2026 NHL Draft, 2nd-7th Rounds	NHLN
	MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP	
5 p.m.	Group Stage: Panama vs. England	Fox, Telemundo
5 p.m.	Group Stage: Croatia vs. Ghana	FS1, Universo
7:30 p.m.	Group Stage: Colombia vs. Portugal	Fox, Telemundo
7:30 p.m.	Group Stage: Congo DR vs. Uzbekistan	FS1, Telemundo
10 p.m.	Group Stage: Jordan vs. Argentina	Fox, Telemundo
10 p.m.	Group Stage: Algeria vs. Austria	FS1, Universo
	WNBA BASKETBALL	
2 p.m.	Mercury at Tempo	CBS
8 p.m.	Sparks at Fever	CBS
	GOLF	
7:30 a.m.	DP World Tour: DS Automobiles 83° Open d'Italia, 3rd Rd.	Golf
10 a.m.	LPGA Tour: KPMG Women's PGA Championship, 3rd Rd.	NBCSN
Noon	LPGA Tour: KPMG Women's PGA Championship, 3rd Rd.	NBC
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: Travelers Championship, 3rd Round	Golf
3 p.m.	LPGA Tour: KPMG Women's PGA Championship, 3rd Rd.	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: Travelers Championship, 3rd Round	NBC
3 p.m.	PGA Tour Champions: DICK'S Open, 2nd Round	CNBC
5 p.m.	PGA Tour Champions: DICK'S Open, 2nd Round	Golf
	MIXED MARTIAL ARTS	
Noon	UFC Fight Night: Fiziev vs. Torres; Magomedov vs. Pereira	Paramount+
10 p.m.	PFL: Main Card, San Diego	ESPN2
	BASKETBALL	
4 p.m.	BIG 3: Week 2	CBS
	FOOTBALL	
7 p.m.	CFL: Calgary Stampeders at British Columbia Lions	CBSSN
3 a.m. (Sun.)	AFL: Gold Coast at Fremantle	FS2
	AUTO RACING	
6:30 a.m.	Formula 1: Austrian Grand Prix, Practice	Apple TV
8:55 a.m.	FIM MotoGP: Netherlands GP - Sprint Race	FS1
10 a.m.	Formula 1: Austrian Grand Prix, Qualifying	Apple TV
2 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Toyota / Save Mart 350 In-Season Challenge - Round 1, Practice	truTV
3:10 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Toyota / Save Mart 350 In-Season Challenge - Round 1, Qualifying	truTV
5:30 p.m.	NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: Pit Boss/FoodMaxx 250	PIX11
9 p.m.	ARCA Menards Series: Shore Lunch 250	FS2
	TENNIS	
7:30 a.m.	ATP/WTA Eastbourne, Finals	Tennis
7:30 a.m.	WTA Bad Homburg, Finals	Tennis
7:30 a.m.	ATP Mallorca, Finals	Tennis
	SOFTBALL	
2 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Talons at Blaze	ESPN
5 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Bandits at Spark	CBSSN
	MEN'S LACROSSE	
4 p.m.	PLL: Maryland vs. Denver	ESPN
	RUGBY	
7:30 a.m.	World Rugby Junior Championships: England vs. Ireland	CBSSN
10 a.m.	World Rugby Junior Championships: Wales vs. Georgia	CBSSN
12:30 p.m.	World Rugby Junior Championships: South Africa vs. Uruguay	CBSSN
	X GAMES	
4 p.m.	X Games Sacramento 2026: Day 2	ABC
10 p.m.	X Games Sacramento 2026: Day 2	ESPN
	HORSE RACING	
Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
12:30 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS1
4 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
4:30 p.m.	Breeders' Cup Challenge Series: Stephen Foster Stakes	NBCSN

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	12	6	.667	—
Liberty	12	7	.632	½
Indiana	10	8	.556	2
Toronto	9	9	.500	3
Washington	8	9	.471	3½
Chicago	6	12	.333	6
Connecticut	4	15	.211	8½
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Minnesota	14	4	.778	—
Las Vegas	13	5	.722	1
Golden State	12	7	.632	2½
Dallas	11	7	.611	3
Los Angeles	8	9	.471	5½
Portland	8	11	.421	6½
Phoenix	6	13	.316	8½
Seattle	4	15	.211	10½

Friday
Chicago 124, Portland 94
Connecticut 68, Washington 57
Golden State 78, Atlanta 75

Saturday
Phoenix at Toronto, 2pm
Los Angeles at Indiana, 8pm
Atlanta at Seattle, 9pm

Sunday
Liberty at Golden State, 7pm
Minnesota at Dallas, 2pm
Portland at Washington, 3pm
Las Vegas at Chicago, 4pm

The POST Line

MLB

Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	$103-126	RED SOX
METS	$116-136	Phillies
TIGERS	$102-127	Astros
BLUE JAYS	$150-178	Rangers
WHITE SOX	$120-146	Royals
Mariners	$123-150	GUARDIANS
Athletics	-102-116	ANGELS
Reds	-105-117	PIRATES
BREWERS	OFF	Cubs
Marlins	-110-111	CARDINALS
Dodgers	$164-203	PADRES
GIANTS	$107-130	Braves
RAYS	$146-174	Diamondbacks
Nationals	-101-121	ORIOLES
TWINS	$119-146	Rockies

Home team in CAPS

CFL

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LIONS	1.5 (57.5)	Stampeders
ALOUETTES	8.5 (55.5)	Redblacks

FIFA World Cup

Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Croatia	$135-425	Ghana
**England	$500-1100	Panama
***Portugal	$110-275	Colombia
****Congo	$135-333	Uzbekistan
*****Austria	$180-280	Algeria
******Argentina	$525-1200	Jordan

*Philadelphia, **MetLife Stadium, ***Miami Gardens, Fla., ****Atlanta, *****Kansas City, Mo., ******Arlington, Tx.

Sunday- Round of 32

Canada	$145-400	South Africa

game held in Inglewood, Calif.

WNBA

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
TEMPO	3.5 (177.5)	Mercury
FEVER	6.5 (178.5)	Sparks
Tuesday-Commissioner's Cup Final		
LIBERTY	3.5 (173.5)	Aces

TOP PLAY

Mets will hit Phils' 28-year-old rookie

By DYLAN SVOBODA

The lowly Mets will continue their weekend series with the Phillies on Saturday.

One day after sending manager Carlos Mendoza packing, the Mets will face right-hander Alan Rangel. He replaces the struggling Andrew Painter, who was pulled from their starting rotation earlier this month.

Rangel, who is making his first start and just eighth big league appearance at 28 years old, isn't expected to pitch deep into this game, but the Mets will at least get a turn or two through the lineup to get a look at him.

While Rangel has been decent for Philly through eight innings this season, his minor league profile doesn't instill much confidence.

Over the past two seasons at the Triple-A level, Rangel has a 4.35 ERA, and he's struggled big-time with the long ball, allowing 1.8 home runs per nine innings over that stretch.

Rangel lacks the downward movement pitch like a two-seamer or sinker, relying instead on a four-seam fastball and changeup while mixing in a curveball and slider, leading to a lot of balls in the air.

JUAN SOTO

Despite their troubles of late, the Mets have quietly been hitting the ball out of the yard, homering 42 times over the last 30 days — the second-most in the majors over that stretch, led by six apiece from Juan Soto, Carson Benge and Jared Young.

That makes this a rare get-right spot post-Mendoza for a Mets lineup that has been hard to trust, but isn't completely punchless.

Rangel doesn't bring overpowering stuff, and with his fly-ball tendencies, even a mediocre offensive showing could be enough if the Mets run into one or two mistakes.

THE PLAY: Mets run total, Over.

STITCHES

Valdez a Houston problem

"Stitch. You picked the Knicks in the NBA Finals and the Hurricanes to win the Stanley Cup. Where the hell is the World Cup pick?" — *Joe from Jersey*

World Cup pick!? It took me weeks just to figure out what FIFA means: Falling Intentionally For Advantage. But it's coming, Joe. Need to watch a few more matches before we make the call so I'm going to the Congo/Uzbekistan watch party today.

If the game gets out of hand and the estimated crowd of six to 10 fans allows, we will sneak a channel change to watch the Astros and Tigers.

Framber Valdez finally won for us, outpitching the Yanks' Gerrit Cole. Valdez blanked the Astros for six innings in his previous start. Play $50 on Framber and the Tigers.

+$

We depended on skidding Paul Skenes to resume his downward spiral and he didn't let us down. Reds 6, Pirates 4. Winner! Up +154 cesargeronimos.

stitches@nypost.com

MMA

UFC Fight Night: Fiziev vs. Torres

Saturday in Baku, Azerbaijan

NAME	ODDS
Rafael Fiziev	-108
vs. Manuel Torres	-112
Shara Magomedov	-395
vs. Michel Pereira	+310
Nazim Sadykhov	-205
vs. Matheus Camilo	+170
Asu Almabayev	-270
vs. Charles Johnson	+220
Ikram Aliskerov	-310
vs. Brunno Ferreira	+250
Abus Magomedov	+100
vs. Michal Oleksiejczuk	-120
Farman Hasanov	-170
vs. Eric Nolan	+142
Abdul Rakhman Yakhyaev	-600
vs. Julius Walker	+400
Nursulton Ruziboev	-230
vs. Andrey Pulyaev	+190

PFL San Diego

Saturday

NAME	ODDS
AJ McKee	-148
vs. Salamat Isbulaev	+124
Liz Carmouche	-215
vs. Viviane Araujo	+165

Getty Images

Rafael Fiziev

Manuel Torres

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026		*REC	'25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA		W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Yankees	Cole (R)		2-2	3.62	3-3	0-0	0.00	7-6	1-1	14.1	5.65
Red Sox	Bennett (L)	(1:10pm)	1-3	3.71	1-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	16.1	3.31
Phillies	Rangel (R)		0-0	2.25	0-0	0-0	0.00	0.00	0-0	0.0	0.00
Mets	TBD	(4:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D'backs	Cabrera (R)		0-0	0.00	0-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	5.0	0.00
Rays	TBD	(6:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nationals	Griffin (L)		8-2	3.15	12-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	19.1	1.40
Orioles	Young (R)	(7:05pm)	6-2	3.07	10-2	0-0	4.91	0-0	2-1	18.0	2.00
Rockies	Lorenzen (R)		2-9	7.10	5-11	1-1	3.97	2-1	0-1	15.1	3.52
Twins	Paredes (R)	(7:10pm)	0-0	4.05	3-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	12.2	3.55
Astros	Teng (R)		4-6	4.03	3-6	0-1	13.50	0-1	1-2	13.1	7.43
Tigers	Valdez (L)	(1:10pm)	4-5	3.91	7-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	17.0	2.65
Rangers	Rocker (R)		2-6	4.14	5-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	13.0	6.92
Blue Jays	Cease (R)	(3:07pm)	4-3	2.75	9-5	0-0	0.00	3-2	1-0	16.2	1.62
Royals	Wacha (R)		5-5	3.48	5-11	1-0	0.00	7-2	1-1	20.0	3.60
White Sox	Martin (R)	(4:10pm)	9-3	3.18	11-4	0-1	2.57	1-3	1-1	15.1	5.87
Mariners	Gilbert (R)		6-4	3.29	10-6	0-0	5.06	0-2	2-0	19.1	1.40
Guardians	Cecconi (R)	(7:10pm)	3-6	4.48	5-11	0-1	12.46	0-2	0-1	16.2	2.70
Athletics	Perkins (R)		2-3	6.26	—	—	—	1-0	0-0	14.0	6.43
Angels	Detmers (L)	(9:38pm)	3-5	3.93	7-9	0-1	10.03	0-1	1-0	20.0	2.70
Reds	Burns (R)		9-1	2.00	11-4	1-0	0.00	1-0	2-0	15.1	1.76
Pirates	Jones (R)	(4:05pm)	1-1	5.75	4-1	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	11.0	6.55
Cubs	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brewers	Harrison (L)	(7:10pm)	8-1	2.50	11-3	1-0	0.00	1-0	1-0	14.2	6.14
Marlins	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardinals	May (R)	(7:15pm)	5-6	4.30	8-7	1-0	1.69	3-1	2-0	17.0	3.18
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)		7-5	2.65	9-5	0-1	1.29	1-3	2-1	22.1	2.01
Padres	Vásquez (R)	(8:40pm)	6-5	4.17	9-6	0-1	6.23	0-2	1-2	12.1	8.76
Braves	Elder (R)		5-5	3.71	9-7	1-0	2.77	1-0	0-2	16.0	9.00
Giants	Webb (R)	(9:05pm)	4-5	3.35	4-9	0-0	3.00	4-1	1-1	24.0	1.12

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY June 27	SUN June 28	MON June 29	TUE June 30	WED July 1
	Boston 1:10 ABC 660 AM 101.9 FM	Boston 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 7:05 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Philadelphia 4:10 SNY 880 AM	Philadelphia 1:40 SNY 880 AM	Toronto 7:07 SNY 880 AM	Toronto 7:07 SNY 880 AM	Toronto 3:07 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	Golden State 7:00 ESPN	NO GAME	Las Vegas 7:00 Prime Video	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22	Wednesday, July 22	Saturday, July 4
FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	San Diego Wave FC 8:45 ION

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Gotham FC wins NWSL Challenge Cup

Esther González converted a penalty in the first half and **Jordynn Dudley** added a late goal to give Gotham FC a 2-0 victory over the Kansas City Current in the Challenge Cup on Friday night in Columbus, Ohio.

Gotham qualified for the match as last season's National Women's Soccer League champions, while the Current were the 2025 Shield winners for the best regular season record. Gonzalez's penalty kick came in the 37th and Dudley sealed the win with a 79th minute tally.

MLB: Misiorowski throws 105.5 mph pitch

Jacob Misiorowski threw a 105.5 mph pitch, tying for the third-fastest since tracking began in 2008, winning for the eighth time in nine decisions to lead the Brewers over the Cubs 6-2 in Milwaukee for their fifth straight win.

● In Chicago, **Tristan Peters** hit a grand slam and had six RBIs in Chicago's 10-run third inning, and the White Sox routed the Royals 22-1.

NBA: Thunder signs Hartenstein, trade Joe

Oklahoma City will keep center **Isaiah Hartenstein** on a new three-year deal worth $75 million according to an report by ESPN. The Thunder turned down the team's option at $28.5 million for the 2026-27 season to extend the 28-year-old center. Oklahoma City also traded elite 3-point shooter **Isaiah Joe** to the Pistons for two second-round draft picks according to multiple reports.

WNBA: Clark sidelined with back injury

Caitlin Clark won't have to worry about taking a fist to the throat like she did on Wednesday against the Mercury, but she will miss Saturday's game against the Sparks while she recovers from a back injury she also suffered in the tilt vs. Phoenix.

Indiana coach **Stephanie White** said Friday morning that Clark wouldn't play. Indiana doesn't play again after Saturday until visiting the Aces on July 5.

FOOTBALL: CFL bars Sorsby from signing deal

Quarterback **Brendan Sorsby**, permanently ruled ineligible by the NCAA for sports betting, won't be kick-starting his pro football career in Canada. The CFL said Friday it won't allow the 22-year-old to sign with any of its teams or be placed on their negotiation lists.

Sorsby attempted to join the NFL's supplemental draft, but the league told him on Tuesday it wouldn't hold one this year.

GOLF: Scheffler just misses on sub-60 round

Scottie Scheffler could not convert a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole at the Travelers Championship in Cromwell, Conn., narrowly missing out on a chance to join **Jim Furyk** as the only players in PGA Tour history with two sub-60 rounds. Scheffler had to settle for a 10-under 60 and finished at 16-under 124, two shots ahead of **Viktor Hovland**.

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP
Saturday

Croatia vs. Ghana

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Croatia	-135
Draw	+230
Ghana	+425
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+125
Under 2.5	-160

Panama vs. England

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Panama	+1250
Draw	+700
England	-550
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 3.5	+115
Under 3.5	-145

Colombia vs. Portugal

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Colombia	+320
Draw	+250
Portugal	-115
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+100
Under 2.5	-120

Congo vs. Uzbekistan

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Congo	-135
Draw	+280
Uzbekistan	+333
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-105
Under 2.5	-120

Algeria vs. Australia

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Algeria	+280
Draw	+120
Australia	+180
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 1.5	-165
Under 1.5	+130

Jordan vs. Argentina

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Jordan	12/1
Draw	+600
Argentina	-525
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-175
Under 2.5	+140

Favorites to win championship

TEAM	ODDS
France	+360
Spain	+550
Argentina	+600
England	+650
Portugal	10/1
Brazil	11/1
Netherlands	14/1
Germany	15/1
USA	30/1
Norway	30/1
Morocco	35/1
Mexico	40/1
Japan	40/1
Colombia	45/1

BET SMART

Ronaldo swings tough choice

ZUMA Press

BACK THE LEGEND: Cristiano Ronaldo (above), the only man to score at six World Cups, will help lead Portugal past Brazil on Saturday, Sean Treppedi predicts.

By SEAN TREPPEDI

Maybe Portugal wasn't the juggernaut we all thought before its 1-1 draw with Congo.

Maybe we didn't credit Colombia enough before it tore through their first two games to lead Group K.

Maybe neither notion is true.

Either way, we're going to find out when the two play each other for the division on Saturday.

Bookmakers are giving Portugal the edge, juiced to -115 on the three-way moneyline, while Colombia can be grabbed for a price as long as +320 at bet365.

The transitive property doesn't always hold true, but for context, let's talk about both team's respective matches against the Congo.

Portugal, who plays a possession-based game, had the ball at their feet for 75 percent of the match despite registering one measly shot on target. Congo defended *Seleção das Quinas* compactly and stunted their creativity through closing passing lanes and denying Portugal space between the lines. And aside from the possession advantage, nothing else about the box score was pretty; the Portuguese fell in expected goals 0.87 to 0.67.

This result was one of the biggest surprises of the group stage before Portugal exploded for a 5-0 pounding on Uzbekistan.

On the other hand, we saw Colombia, a counterattacking side, outshoot DR Congo 9-1 in a 1-0 victory. *La Tricolor* by no means dominated the match, however, as the *Léopards* applied the same compact mid-block that disrupted Portugal.

This was a wasteful display, and the Colombians won't be given the same luxuries against Portugal. *Seleção das Quinas* heads into this critical match tied with Spain for the highest possession average in the World Cup, completing the second-most passes per match.

This technical security is manned by Rúben Dias anchoring the defense, João Neves and Vitinha controlling midfield tempo and Bernardo Silva operating between the lines. Neither Congo nor Uzbekistan tested Colombia's block the way this group is capable of.

Colombia's reactive approach relies on Luis Díaz and James Rodríguez finding quick breaks. Portugal will neutralize those threats by compressing space in midfield, and counter-pressing aggressively to prevent Colombia from turning defensive recoveries into forward transitions.

For instance, their Uzbekistan massacre demonstrated how they can unleash waves of attacks that force opponents deeper and deeper, limiting their ability to counter.

And lest we forget Cristiano Ronaldo, who even at 41, is Portugal's top rated player in FotMob rating. He just bagged a brace and earned player of the match, becoming the first to score at six World Cups. His movement in the box draws defenders and creates space for runners from midfield like no one else on the pitch in this match.

If Portugal strikes first, Colombia will be forced out of its mid-block and into an open game, serving up the Portuguese attack on a silver platter.

There are many who believe the market is inflating Portugal after Ronaldo's big splash. Those same pundits say the South Americans are getting disrespected on the market after not only being the more convincing side in this tournament, but having gone 28 games unbeaten just a couple of years ago.

I'm still sticking with firepower over composure in a must-win situation in what is likely Ronaldo's last kick at the can.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Spinning Class (2nd)
Lock Record: 12 for 20 (60%)
Meet Record: 68/236 $346.36

1 6 fur; $28,000; clm($10,000); 4up(f)

The last weekend at Aqueduct...In the opener **BEST IMPRESSION** was 3 lengths short racing for 16k. Won handily racing for 10k in March. Races off the Kantarmaci claim. **PROBLEMATICA** and **OPEN SOUL AUTISM** are both 0 for 8 at the Big A. Problematica lost to Best Impression in January. Open Soul Autism lost to top pick in March. Franco on Problematica.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Problematica(L),121	M Franco	3-4-4	Potts	9-5
2	Best Impression(L),123	S Gonzalez	7-2-1	Kantarmaci	7-5
3	Open Soul Autism(L),121	H Harkie	6-4-6	Kantarmaci	6-1
4	Thelastbulletsmine(L),123	D Rivera	3-1-5	Pino	5-1
5	Shezanarcticqueen(L),121	R Gutierrez	6-8-8	Jones	4-1

2 1 1/16m(T); $41,000; mdn clm($30,000); 3up(f)

The first of five turf races. **SPINNING CLASS** finished with energy, a length short at Laurel. McGaughey gives her another 1/16 to get there; gets Lezcano to ride. **TWO BY TWO BY TWO** makes 3YO debut for Cox. About 3 lengths shy, this distance, only turf start. Franco on; blinkers on; 1st time lasix. **MAPPY** was 2nd at Tampa, then 3rd at Gulfstream before going on the shelf in January. Contender off the breather for Weaver.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mappy(L),120	E Zayas	3-2-6	Weaver	5-1
2	Essence L Vee(L),120	D Davis	7-5-4	Hennig	12-1
3	Kef(L),120	L Pena	2-6-4	Barrera III	30-1
4	Spinning Class(L),126	J Lezcano	3-4-2	McGaughey III	1-1
5	Katerina Ristova(L),126	C Gonzalez	9-5-6	Chichakly	20-1
6	Dreamy Girl(L),120	K Davis	5-9-x	Antonucci	15-1
7	Two by Two by Two(M),120	M Franco	5-3-7	Cox	8-5

3 1 mile; $37,000; clm($25,000); 3up

We watched **THE OBLITERATOR** finish a disappointing 5th as fave behind **CALLING CARD** who was 2nd. The Obliterator was claimed by Morley who has been money off the claim. **WHITBY** is 0 for 5 racing a mile but 2nd best last try.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Raging Sea Captain(L),120	R Silvera	8-3-4	Rodriguez	12-1
2	Antietam(L),126	J Lezcano	7-1-2	Rice	4-1
3	Ducky Medwick(L),126	D Davis	4-4-6	Summers	5-2
4	Calling Card(L),126	M Franco	2-2-5	Maker	2-1
5	Lucky Dragon(L),126	R Gutierrez	1-4-5	Miceli	20-1
6	The Obliterator(L),120	E Zayas	5-4-5	Morley	7-2
7	Whitby(L),126	J Rodriguez	2-5-2	Hennig	8-1

4 6 1/2 fur; $28,000; clm($10,000); 4up

Betting **DOTS DOLLAR** even though he was last of 8 racing for 25k. Won comfortably racing for 10k in February. Franco rides for Kantarmaci who can 1-2 with **CLASSIC CUT**. Beat by 3/4 before shipping from Oaklawn. Last win was in November of 2024. **GLINT** lost the rider shortly after the break. Placed 2nd with similar in April.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Classic Cut(L),121	S Gonzalez	2-6-6	Kantarmaci	3-1
2	He's Got This(L),121	J Lezcano	6-4-3	Englehart	4-1
3	Spirit Dragon(L),123	R Silvera	5-6-4	Arriaga	5-1
4	Glint(L),123	F Villa Pino	7-6-2	Chichakly	8-1
5	Graywing(L),123	R Gutierrez	11-7-3	Jones	12-1
6	Neuschwanstein(L),121	O Hrndz Mreno	6-8-9	Romero	20-1
7	Sin Nombre(L),123	K Davis	6-5-5	Romero	10-1
8	Dot's Dollar(L),123	M Franco	8-2-5	Kantarmaci	2-1

5 6 fur(T); $48,000; clm($40,000); 3up

Ward takes **AFTER TAXES** lower to make his seasonal debut. 1 for 6 last year but figs suggest he's softly spotted for return. Does he need a race? Davis will be the first to know. **TOGA DORO** Close 2nd with similar. Moves forward if we're off turf. **ARCHIMEDES** exits a tired 8th at Churchill. Route to sprint and lower for Maker who gets Carmouche to ride.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Hong Kong Phooey(L),121	E Zayas	7-4-5	Rodriguez	15-1
2	Archimedes(L),121	K Carmouche	8-11-2	Maker	4-1
3	Solomini's World(L),121	S Gonzalez	4-4-3	Arriaga	20-1
4	Sports Hero(L),126	R Silvera	3-1-3	Ryerson	8-1
5	Middle Market(L),126	J Rodriguez	6-2-5	Arenas	6-1
6	Slay Sadie Slay(L),121	M Franco	5-5-4	R Dutrow	12-1
7	Swaging(L),126	J Lezcano	9-1-3	Rice	9-2
8	After Taxes(IRE)(L),126	D Davis	7-3-3	Ward	6-5
9	Toga d'Oro(L),126	Rider TBA	2-6-2	R Dutrow	1-1

6 1 1/16 miles(T); $57,000; clm($55,000); 3up(f)

It's been 15 months since **BRILLANTE** was an eased, last of 11 behind Nitrogen in the Florida Oaks. French filly moves sharply lower for return. Franco rides for Chad Brown. **AMELIAS ECHO** MTO. **STARLIGHT DANCER** Midpack 5th off the 8 month layoff. Runnerup last 2 starts at this shorter distance last year. Starlight may Dance, 2nd off the shelf, dropping for Nevin.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Maxisure(L),120	S Gonzalez	7-10-6	Arriaga	30-1
2	Brillante(FR)(L),126	M Franco	11-1-x	C Brown	6-5
3	Starlight Dancer(L),126	K Carmouche	5-3-2	Nevin	5-2
4	On a Summer Day(L),126	R Silvera	8-4-1	Pregman	9-2
5	Leslie's Star(L),126	J Rodriguez	5-3-9	Potts	10-1
6	Putonahappyface(L),126	J Lezcano	1-8-10	R Dutrow	5-1
7	Y'allreadyforthis(M),120	D Rivera	10-3-5	Arriaga	15-1
8	Amelia's Echo(L),126	M Franco	4-2-2	Kantarmaci	2-1
9	Karey(L),120	Rider TBA	2-3-7	Kantarmaci	5-2

7 6 fur; $37,000; clm($25,000); 3up

SALMING was 3rd of 8 at 20-1 here last week. Shorter price today edging lower for Abreu. **BOLD LOVE** tired racing longer with a quality allowance field at Saratoga. Moves lower, runs shorter for Chad Summers. Won only start at 6 furlongs. **SULLY** graduated easily on his 12th attempt. Modestly spotted, he stopped badly racing 7 panels at Keeneland. Claimed by Rice who tightens him back to proven distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Salming(L),126	J Rodriguez	3-5-3	Abreu	9-2
2	Mo Spice(L),121	E Zayas	11-6-2	Rodriguez	12-1
3	Bold Love(L),121	D Davis	7-3-2	Summers	2-1
4	Stayfrostymyfriend(L),121	K Davis	1-6-5	Sacco	20-1
5	Constant Chaos(L),121	J Lezcano	3-1-8	Duggan	12-1
6	Mission Critical(L),121	K Carmouche	6-7-4	Englehart	8-1
7	Shellac(L),126	R Silvera	3-8-1	Abreu	6-1
8	Strategicoperation(L),121	S Gonzalez	4-12-1	Arriaga	15-1
9	Sully(L),126	M Franco	9-1-2	Rice	3-1

8 6 fur(T); $150,000; Ashley T. Cole; 3up

The feature is the Ashley T Cole. Nevin's **DANCING BUCK** won a 150k, gate-to-wire at Aqueduct before going on the shelf in November. Solid 5 for 10 at the Big A. **WAROLO** is 4 for 6 on grass after winning the Elusive Quality here last month. Speed on the hedge. **BOLD JOURNEY** is 1 for 9 on turf after turning in 3 lengths short in the Grade 1 Jaipur. A 1/2 length shy in last years edition of the Ashely T Cole. Won the Tom Fool on dirt in February. Carmouche rides for Mott.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Waralo,126	J Lezcano	1-2-2	Englehart	5-2
2	Sacrosanct,124	M Franco	1-2-1	Rice	5-1
3	Run Curtis Run,124	D Davis	4-2-8	Maker	4-1
4	Courtly Banker,124	K Davis	7-1-2	Tagg	15-1
5	Twisted Filigree,124	J Rodriguez	4-7-5	Weaver	12-1
6	Bold Journey,126	K Carmouche	7-3-1	Mott	7-2
7	Dancing Buck,126	R Silvera	1-4-5	Nevin	9-2
8	Three B's,124	R Gutierrez	1-10-2	Rice	30-1
9	Counter Move,124	E Zayas	3-1-3	Weaver	20-1
10	Light Man,126	K Carmouche	2-4-4	Levine	5-1

9 1 mile; $88,000; alw; 3up(f)

A Dancing double. **ROMANTIC DANCER** is 0 for 6 this year but has been 2nd best 5 times. Longer distance may put her over the top. Dutrow gets Franco back; adds blinkers. **AEOLIAN** broke maiden (3rd start) at Churchill in November. Makes 4YO debut, same distance for Chad Brown. **COQUITO** moves higher after winning narrowly. Board hitter 12 of 13 at Aqueduct. Rodriguez subs for Franco. **SHES GRAND** is 4 for 5 at a mile after winning by a neck. Must be considered. **ABSOLUTE HONOR** tightened to a mile and responded with a handy wire-to-wire maiden breaker (6th start) at Gulfstream. Competitively spotted for Saffie Joseph.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Aeolian(L),126	D Davis	1-2-5	C Brown	5-2
2	Brunch With Amy(L),126	K Carmouche	3-4-1	Rice	8-1
3	Absolute Honor(L),126	E Zayas	1-7-2	Joseph	7-2
4	Bernieandtherose(L),126	K Davis	6-3-1	Schettino	10-1
5	Will Not Be Swayed(L),126	R Gutierrez	7-1-5	Shivmangal	20-1
6	Romantic Dancer(L),126	M Franco	2-4-2	R Dutrow	6-1
7	Coquito(L),126	J Rodriguez	1-2-1	Schauer	9-2
8	She's Grand(L),126	J Lezcano	1-3-1	Rice	6-1
9	Soundbite(L),126	R Silvera	4-3-5	Nevin	15-1

10 1 mile; $90,000; alw; 4up

Troubled start for **RANGER BATTALION** and he retreated late, landing 5th of 7. Winner previous start at this same distance. **PLAYING TRICKS** was a muddy 6th of 7 last out. Won previous pair over fast tracks. Check conditions. **LOU** Outrun at Tampa. Midpack 4th racing a mile at the Big A in December. Katie Davis rides the extreme longshot for Maria Mann. **MR PAPAGIORGIO** has won 2 in a row, latest at Monmouth. Has speed and may be the one to catch.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	General Banker(L),121	E Zayas	6-8-3	Ferraro	10-1
2	Playing Tricks(L),123	M Franco	6-1-1	C Brown	5-2
3	Makes Sense(L),123	J Rodriguez	7-5-1	Summers	9-2
4	Mr. Papagiorgio(L),123	R Silvera	1-1-3	R Dutrow	8-1
5	Lou(L),121	K Davis	8-5-4	Mann	50-1
6	Ranger Battalion(L),123	J Lezcano	5-4-1	Rice	4-1
7	Otello(L),123	D Davis	3-3-5	Atras	6-1
8	Eliminate(L),123	K Carmouche	3-1-2	Rice	3-1

11 6 fur(T); $80,000; mdn; 3up

In the nightcap...**SUPER DAVE** moves forward after finishing 2nd at this distance. Pennington up. Choice over the debuting **BUBSTER**. Levine trains the Honest Mischief 3YO for Flying P.; Lezcano rides. **DAISY DOO** was 3rd behind Super Dave. **TAKEITEASY CHARLIE** (R Mott/Franco/Jimmy Creed) and **HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH** (Rice/Silvera/Kantharos) make career debuts as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Son of a Pharoah(M),121	D Davis	x-x-x	Baker	12-1
2	Takeiteasy Charlie(M),121	M Franco	x-x-x	Mott	6-1
3	Portadown Lad(L),121	K Carmouche	2-8-8	Ferraro	20-1
4	Super Dave(L),121	F Pennington	2-9-x	Ward	8-5
5	Daisy Doo(L),121	E Zayas	3-8-4	Ribaudo	5-1
6	Mr. Pools(L),121	A Worrie	x-x-x	Englehart	20-1
7	Bubster(M),121	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Levine	9-2
8	Sultan Hassan(M),121	J Rodriguez	12-x-x	De Paz	10-1
9	Bold Scholar(L),121	K Davis	13-x-x	Giddings	30-1
10	How Much Is Enough(M),121	R Silvera	x-x-x	Rice	8-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Donegal Time (9-1) never settled and finished 5th. Foto (7-2) got a piece, running home 3rd. Loss of -$34.80.

One play on the last-ever Saturday at the Big A. Bet $20 to win and place on Romantic Dancer in Race 9. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Aqueduct Results

FIRST-1 mile; $60,000; mdn clm($75,0); 3up

6	Ftfl Lghtnng (Crmch)	22.98	9.70	3.84
1	Mortal Lock (Franco)		3.80	2.72
5	Executive (Santana,Jr.)			2.34

● $1 Exacta (6-1) $48.09 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-1-5-2) $36.86 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-1-5) $67.18

Winner picked by Vic C

SECOND-1 mile; $55,000; clm($25,000); 4up

4	Qut Wsdm (Cstlln)	5.22	3.22	2.82
2	Sagmore Mschef (Frnco)		4.04	3.04
1	Expensive Cut (Zayas)			3.24

Scr: Hours in a Day
● $1 Daily Double (6-4) $43.88 ● $1 Exacta (4-2) $13.80 ● $1 Quinella (2-4) $8.17 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-2-1-3) $7.33 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-2-1) $19.65

THIRD-7 fur; $70,000; st alc($55,000); 3up

6	Ccktlsnkrngl (Slvr)	4.62	2.64	2.26
3	Goldn Symphony (Frnco)		3.22	2.42
4	Master Freud (Rivera)			3.52

Scr: Fever Night
● $1 Pick 3 (6-4-6) $136.16 ● $1 Daily Double (4-6) $9.65 ● $1 Exacta (6-3) $7.75 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-3-4-2) $7.82 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-3-4) $16.55

Exacta picked by Vic C

FOURTH-6 fur; $48,000; mdn clm($50,0); 3up

6	Arstd Mllol (Lzcn)	7.88	3.86	2.54
8	Rches Love (Carmouche)		6.04	3.24
4	Speightful Storm (Zayas)			2.44

Scr: Keep 'Em Honest, True Adirondacker
● $1 Pick 3 (4-6-6) $35.47 ● $1 Daily Double (6-6) $10.45 ● $1 Exacta (6-8) $22.16 ● $1 Quinella (6-8) $14.28 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-8-4-7) $9.40 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-8-4) $27.79

FIFTH-1 3/16 mile; $85,000; mdn spl wt; 3up

4	Iron Sight (Prat)	4.16	2.78	2.40
6	Protect nd Defnd (Lzcno)		6.26	4.26
2	Duty (Rodriguez)			5.06

Scr: Languid, Orgonite
● $1 Pick 3 (6-6-4) $24.14 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4/7-1/6-6-4/5/7) $51.53 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (6-4/7-1/6-6-4/5/7) $1025.95 ● $1 Daily Double (6-4) $9.85 ● $1 Exacta (4-6) $9.49 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-6-2-8) $18.15 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-6-2) $45.17

SIXTH-1 1/16 mile; $82,000; alc; 3up

4	Englsh Cstl (Rdrgz)	24.18	11.80	6.46
7	Oat Coutour (Lezcano)		6.98	3.64
5	Willpowered (Prat)			2.66

Scr: Hey Toby, Corvus
● $1 Pick 3 (6-4-4) $127.85 ● $1 Daily Double (4-4) $28.90 ● $1 Exacta (4-7) $81.12 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-7-5-8) $240.52 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-7-5) $121.40 ● $1 Pick 3 (6-4-4) $127.85 ● $1 Daily Double (4-4) $28.90 ● $1 Exacta (4-7) $81.12 ● $0.1 Show (4-7-5-8) $240.52 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-7-5) $121.40

SEVENTH-6½ fur; $39,000; clm($25,000); 3up

9	Sbstnth Frst (SntnJr.)	19.66	9.44	5.30
4	Epitaph (Zayas)		12.70	5.36
6	Typhoon Fury (Gutierrez)			3.42

Scr: Enduring Spirit, Airborne Elite, Math Tutor
● $1 Pick 3 (4-4-9) $287.57 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1/6-6-4/5/7-4-9) $4189.16 ● $1 Daily Double (4-9) $129.97 ● $1 Exacta (9-4) $49.94 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-4-6-1) $72.12 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-4-6) $116.03 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-4-9) $287.57 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1/6-6-4/5/7-4-9) $4189.16 ● $1 Daily Double (4-9) $129.97 ● $1 Exacta (9-4) $49.94 ● $0.1 Show (9-4-6-1) $72.12 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-4-6) $116.03

EIGHTH-1 3/16 mile; $70,000; alw; 3up

4	Crc Brothrs (Frnc)	3.34	2.90	2.52
6	Outsource (Santana,Jr.)		6.10	4.74
1	Salt Spartan (Carmouche)			7.28

Scr: Egyptian, Run Quiet Run Fast, Register, Into the Light, Apalta
● $1 Grand Slam (2/4/6-4/5/7-4/6/9-4) $62.06 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-9-4) $243.78 ● $1 Daily Double (9-4) $20.16 ● $1 Exacta (4-6) $11.20 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-6-1-3) $31.92 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-6-1) $33.57 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-9-4) $243.78 ● $1 Daily Double (9-4) $20.16 ● $1 Exacta (4-6) $11.20 ● $0.1 Show (4-6-1-3) $31.92 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-6-1) $33.57 ● $1 Place Pick 9 (2/4/6-4/5/7-4/6/9-4) $62.06

Exacta picked by Vic C (Lock)

NINTH-1 1/16 mile; $41,000; md cl($30,0); 3p

3	Lev Warror (Davs)	25.02	9.14	6.02
9	Urgency (Lezcano)		4.10	3.16
4	Foto (Castellano)			3.30

Scr: Bootsy's a Rascal, Go Dharma
● $1 Pick 6 (6-4-4-9-4-3) $501.48 ● $1 Pick 3 (9-4-3) $176.05 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4-9-4-3) $1078.12 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-4-9-4-3) $3483.89 ● $1 Daily Double (4-3) $15.47 ● $1 Exacta (3-9) $28.78 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-9-4-5) $65.08 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-9-4) $39.34 ● $1 Pick 3 (9-4-3) $176.05 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4-9-4-3) $1078.12 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-4-9-4-3) $3483.89 ● $1 Pick 6 (6-4-4-9-4-3) $501.48 ● $1 Daily Double (4-3) $15.47 ● $1 Exacta (3-9) $28.78 ● $0.1 Show (3-9-4-5) $65.08 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-9-4) $39.34

2026 NHL Draft

At KeyBank Center- Buffalo, N.Y.
Friday- First Round

1. Toronto, Gavin McKenna, LW, Penn St.
2. San Jose, Ivar Stenberg, LW, Frolunda (Sweden).
3. Vancouver, Caleb Malhotra, C, Brantford (OHL).
4. Buffalo (from Chicago), Daxon Rudolph, D, Prince Albert (WHL).
5. **Rangers**, Alberts Smits, D, Munchen (Germany).
6. Calgary, Carson Carels, D, Prince George (WHL).
7. Seattle, Chase Reid, D, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL).
8. Winnipeg, Viggo Bjorck, C, Djurgarden (Sweden).
9. San Jose (from Florida via Ottawa), Keaton Verhoeff, D, North Dakota.
10. Nashville, Wyatt Cullen, LW, U.S. U18 (NTDP).
11. St. Louis, Tynan Lawrence, C, Boston U.
12. **Devils**, Alexander Command, C, Orebro Jr. (Sweden-Jr.).
13. **Islanders**, Malte Gustafsson, D, HV71 (Sweden).
14. Columbus, Oscar Hemming, LW, Boston College.
15. Anaheim (from Detroit via St. Louis), Nikita Klepov, RW, Saginaw (OHL).
16. St. Louis (from Washington), Maddox Dagenais, C, Quebec (QMJHL).
17. Utah (from Los Angeles), Ethan Belchetz, LW, Windsor (OHL).
18. Washington (from Anaheim), Oliver Suvanto, C, Tappara (Finland).
19. Los Angeles (from Utah), Elton Hermansson, RW, Modo (Sweden 2).
20. Buffalo (from Edmonton via San Jose), Ilia Morozov, C, Miami (Ohio).
21. San Jose (from Philadelphia), Ryan Lin, D, Vancouver (WHL).
22. Pittsburgh, Liam Ruck, RW, Medicine Hat (WHL).
23. Detroit (from Boston via Utah), Jeffrey Hurlbert, LW, Kamloops (WHL).
24. Vancouver (from Minnesota), Adam Novotny, LW, Peterborough (OHL).
25. Ottawa (fromTB via SEA and FLA), Jonas Lagerberg Hoen, Leksand Jr. (Sweden-Jr.).
26. Montreal (from DAL via CAR and **NYR** and VGK), Gleb Pugachyov, RW, Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Russia-Jr.).
27. Philadelphia (from Buffalo via San Jose), Maksim Sokolovskii, D, London (OHL).
28. Anaheim (from Montreal via Vegas), Marcus Nordmark, LW, Djurgarden Jr. (Sweden-Jr.).
29. Vegas (from COL via NYI and STL and ANA), Juho Piiparinen, D, Tappara (Finland).
30. Calgary (from Vegas), Jack Hextall, C, Youngstown (USHL).
31. Nashville (from Carolina), Thomas Bleyl, D, Moncton (QMJHL).
32. Ottawa, Jaxon Cover, RW, London (OHL).

Golf

PGA Tour- Travelers Championship
At TPC River Highlands; Cromwell, Conn.; Purse: $20 million; Yardage: 6,844; Par: 70
Second Round

Scottie Scheffler	64-60	124	-16
Viktor Hovland	65-61	126	-14
Akshay Bhatia	66-62	128	-12
Eric Cole	63-65	128	-12
Bud Cauley	64-66	130	-10
Matt Fitzpatrick	64-66	130	-10
Ben Griffin	64-66	130	-10
Brian Campbell	68-63	131	-9
Patrick Cantlay	65-66	131	-9
Tommy Fleetwood	67-64	131	-9
Maverick McNealy	67-64	131	-9
Justin Rose	65-66	131	-9
J.J. Spaun	66-65	131	-9
Keegan Bradley	67-65	132	-8
Sam Burns	66-66	132	-8
Wyndham Clark	68-64	132	-8
Harris English	66-66	132	-8
Benjamin James	68-64	132	-8
Kurt Kitayama	69-63	132	-8
Robert MacIntyre	67-65	132	-8
Kristoffer Reitan	64-68	132	-8
Corey Conners	65-68	133	-7
Nicolas Echavarria	64-69	133	-7
Si Woo Kim	69-64	133	-7
Shane Lowry	68-65	133	-7
Aaron Rai	65-68	133	-7
Sungjae Im	68-66	134	-6
Hideki Matsuyama	67-67	134	-6
Taylor Pendrith	67-67	134	-6
J.T. Poston	67-67	134	-6
Brandt Snedeker	65-69	134	-6
Justin Thomas	68-66	134	-6
Jhonattan Vegas	69-65	134	-6

LPGA Tour- KPMG Women's PGA Championship
At Hazeltine; Chaska, Minn.; Purse: $13 million; Yardage: 6,760; Par: 72
Second Round

Ina Yoon	63-69	132	-12
Nasa Hataoka	70-67	137	-7
Brooke Henderson	69-68	137	-7
A Lim Kim	67-70	137	-7
Hae-Ran Ryu	73-64	137	-7
Nelly Korda	70-68	138	-6
Dongeun Lee	69-69	138	-6
Karis Davidson	65-74	139	-5
Patty Tavatanakit	71-68	139	-5
Weiwei Zhang	71-68	139	-5
Ayaka Furue	69-71	140	-4
Jenny Shin	71-69	140	-4
Maja Stark	73-67	140	-4
Jeeno Thitikul	69-71	140	-4
Dewi Weber	70-70	140	-4
Jing Yan	69-71	140	-4
Allisen Corpuz	71-70	141	-3
Wei-Ling Hsu	69-72	141	-3
Megan Khang	68-73	141	-3
Auston Kim	71-70	141	-3
Alison Lee	69-72	141	-3
Andrea Lee	69-72	141	-3
Amy Yang	69-72	141	-3
Perrine Delacour	71-71	142	-2
Nataliya Guseva	70-72	142	-2
Aki Iwai	70-72	142	-2
Somi Lee	71-71	142	-2
Miyu Yamashita	72-70	142	-2
Angel Yin	71-71	142	-2

DP World Tour- DS Automobiles 83° Open d*Italia
At Circolo Golf Torino; Fiano, Italy; Purse: $3 million; Yardage: 7,214; Par: 71
Second Round

Joaquin Niemann	64-63	127	-15
Angel Ayora Fanegas,	66-63	129	-13
Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra	66-65	131	-11
Tom Vaillant	65-66	131	-11
Matt Wallace	69-62	131	-11
Romain Langasque	69-63	132	-10

Mick accused of showing explicit pic to golfer's wife

By EDWARD LEWIS

Phil Mickelson allegedly tried to seduce golfer Pat Perez's wife by using a naked photo of himself — all while Perez was in a nearby bathroom completely unaware of the three-time Masters champion's nefarious actions.

The incident, according to a Skratch report penned by Alan Shipnuck on Friday, occurred in 2015, when Mickelson and Perez were getting ready to compete in the PGA Tour's Barclays tournament at Plainfield CC in Edison, N.J.

Mickelson, Shipnuck reported, invited Perez and his then-wife, Ashley, to stay with him at his swanky villa near the course, and when the two arrived, the trio began drinking wine on the property's patio.

However, "when Pat excused himself to use the restroom, Ashley says Mickelson took out his phone and showed her a full-body picture of himself naked with an erection while flexing one bicep," Shipnuck wrote.

ASHLEY PEREZ

Ashley, Shipnuck added, claimed Mickelson then told her, "I'm going to leave my bedroom door open tonight. When Pat falls asleep, I want you to come see me.' "

Ashley objected, and following the tournament, she told Perez about Mickelson's advances. Perez then, according to Shipnuck, retold the story to so many in the golf world "that Mickelson's genitals became an urban legend on Tour."

Mickelson, who's been married to his wife Amy for 30 years, went on to apologize to Perez twice for his behavior, per the Skratch report. The first happened while the two, both Arizona State alums, were at the famed Madison Club in Southern California. The next took place in a 26-minute phone call after Perez said on a November 2022 podcast that he had "a different hate for Phil than most people."

"Throughout the 26-minute phone call, Mickelson alternated between contrition and saying he didn't remember the details of that night," Shipnuck reported.

At one point during the call, it appeared Mickelson tried to say that he believed he was merely topless — not fully nude — in the photo that he showed Ashley.

"Without admitting what he had done," Shipnuck stated in the Skratch piece, "Mickelson apologized directly to both Pat and Ashley and said, 'I can't tell you how disgusted and embarrassed I am in myself.' "

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)
Sometimes you can be a bit fearful and avoid situations that could actually work well for you, and that is something you need to keep in mind this weekend. The braver you are, the more the universe will find ways to support you.

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)
Friendships are under excellent stars, so get out and about and enjoy the company of people whose outlook on life reflects your own can-do attitude. Together you can make good things happen, both for yourselves and for the world at large.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
You may or may not be ambitious by nature, but the universe is about to send your way an opportunity that is too good to miss. Don't wait for others to give you permission to act — seize the initiative and make a name for yourself.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
You will be in one of those moods when you prefer to think rather than act this weekend, and that's fine. You may be one of the zodiac's cardinal signs but you don't have to be on the go all the time. Give your body a well-earned rest.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
You can be a bit obsessive at times and the planets warn that could work against you over the next few days. It's good that you want to be the best at what you do but you need to accept that you have limits like everyone else.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
As Mars moves into your opposite sign you must expect loved ones and work colleagues to be more assertive than they have been of late. Don't make an issue of it though, because their power could be greater than your own.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
You may be tempted to up your work rate to get ahead and create some free time for yourself, but the danger is that your colleagues will see how dynamic you are and load even more responsibilities on you. Work only for yourself this weekend.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
With Mars joining your ruler Uranus in the most energetic area of your chart this weekend, even the impossible will look easy to you. Your ability to come up with solutions that no one else can even imagine will keep you ahead of your rivals.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
You need to accept that different people have different values and different ways of doing things. It may annoy you that someone you live or work with seems determined to ignore your advice but maybe on this occasion they know best.

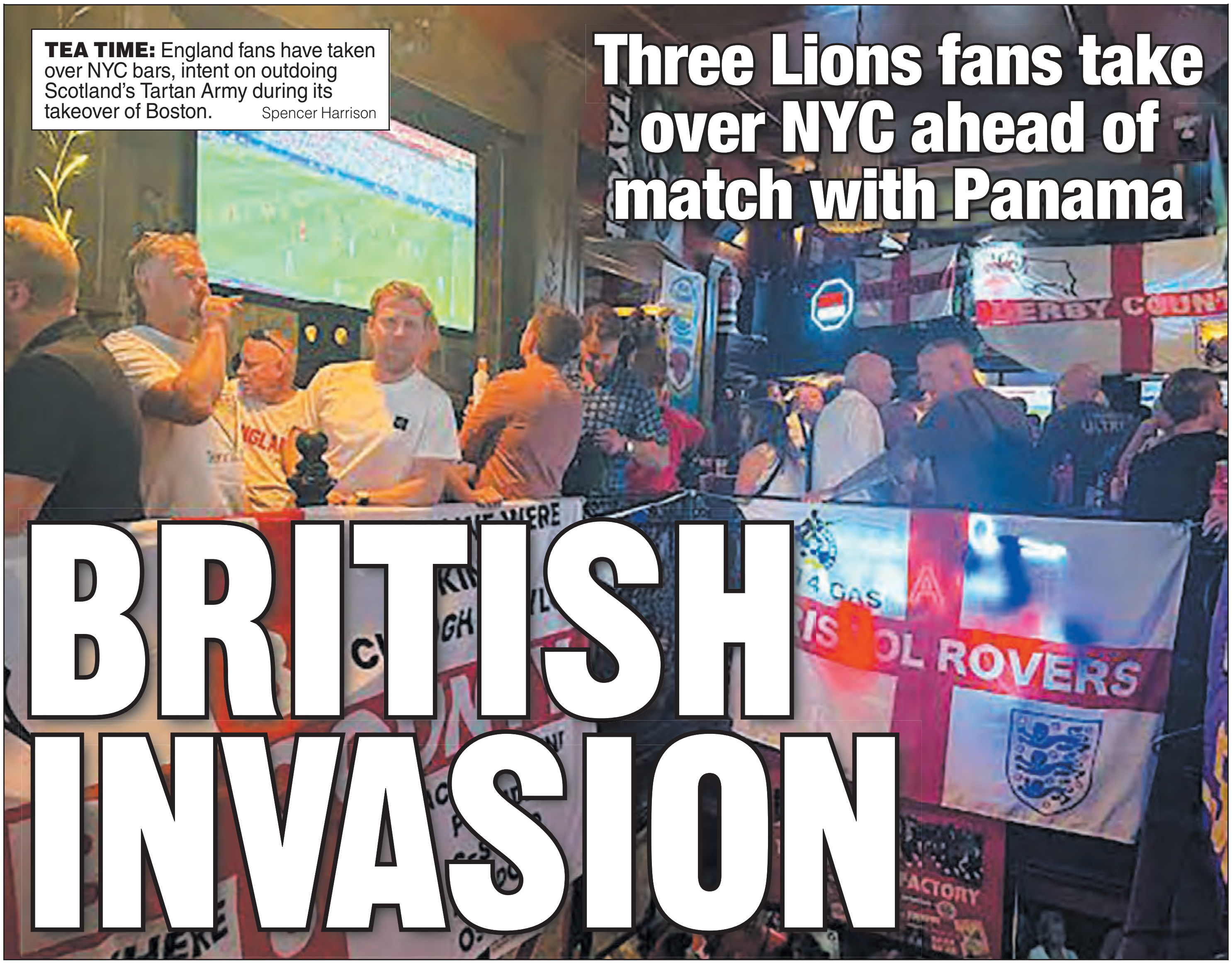
♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)
If you make an effort to meet new people this weekend you will encounter someone whose outlook on life you find truly inspiring. You don't have to follow their ways exactly but you can and you must adapt their ideas to suit your own needs.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)
Mars makes a powerful link to luck planet Jupiter this weekend and then leaves your sign, which means you need to be quick if you are to take advantage of an opportunity that arrives out of the blue. Don't think about it, just act!

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)
With Mars moving into your sign this weekend, your energy levels will soar. Your ambitions will also get a boost and if you want to move up in the world you will get an opportunity to show what you can do. Give it your very best shot.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

The message of your birthday chart is that you need to come out from the shadows and show the world what a truly creative individual you are. What is it that inspires you the most? Spend more time on that one thing than on anything else.



TEA TIME: England fans have taken over NYC bars, intent on outdoing Scotland's Tartan Army during its takeover of Boston. Spencer Harrison

Three Lions fans take over NYC ahead of match with Panama

BRITISH INVASION

By STANLEY HARRISON

The Scots took Boston. Now England fans have arrived in New York to settle the score.

After watching their bitter rivals turn Boston into a tartan stronghold earlier in the World Cup, Three Lions supporters landed in Manhattan with a clear mission before Saturday's Group L World Cup clash with Panama at New York New Jersey Stadium: prove they could go bigger, louder and longer.

The Brits are back in New York — and they are trying to retake the city one pub at a time.

By Friday afternoon, England shirts, St. George's flags and fancy dress had spread across the five boroughs. Long lines of fans spilled out of Banter Bar in Williamsburg, while others packed into Legends, Carragher's, Jones Wood Foundry and The Long Acre in Midtown.

There were retro shirts, bucket hats, knights costumes, plastic crowns and painted faces everywhere. One group of Portsmouth fans sat proudly around a flag reading: "Donald Trump's Blue and White Army."

"I've had fans from everywhere in here this tournament, but I haven't heard anything like this," said Raef, 41, a barman at a Midtown pub. "They were singing before half of them had even got served. It's been loud all month, but this lot are on another level."

"We heard the Scots drank Boston dry," said Jack Stocker, 23, from Bristol. "Fair play, but we all know they're a bunch of lightweights in kilts. This is New York. This is the big time."

It wasn't quite 1776 in reverse, but there was a playful sense of history in the air as England fans joked about reclaiming old territory in a city that once sat under British control.

"They threw us out once, and now we've come back to retake what's ours," said Guy Cave, 31, from Bradford, wearing a red-and-white cape outside Carragher's. "We've been very patient about it."

Even the weather seemed to follow them across the Atlantic. Gray skies rolled over New York for much of the day, giving the city a distinctly English look, although the heavy humidity quickly reminded traveling fans they were not back home.

While hundreds of Panama fans took to Times Square, bringing color and noise to the tourist center, England supporters largely sought shelter indoors, choosing the comfort of cold beer and cold air over the city's sticky streets.

Inside the bars, the soundtrack was familiar. "It's coming home" rang out between rounds, followed by the usual plea: "Please don't take me home, I just don't want to go to work, I want to stay here, drink all your beer."

The takeover was not just imported from home. Plenty of Americans were in England shirts too, many drawn in through Premier League loyalties rather than family roots.

"I'm from Brooklyn, but I'm an Arsenal fan, so England feels like the obvious choice," said Will Pembroke, 27, wearing a Bukayo Saka shirt outside Legends. "A lot of American soccer culture can feel a bit forced and cringe. With England, they don't take themselves too seriously."

At Jones Wood Foundry on the Upper East Side, the scene was calmer but still tense with tournament anticipation. At Corner Bistro in the West Village, taken over by Burberry for England games throughout the tournament, the mood was more polished. At Tea & Sympathy, some fans swapped pints for tea and scones, finding a quieter slice of home.

Others were stretching the weekend beyond soccer, with groups planning trips to Citi Field and Madison Square Garden for the darts — another piece of English sporting culture landing in Manhattan.

But the main energy remained in the bars, where England fans backed themselves not only against Panama, but against the Scots.

New York will not be coming back to King Charles anytime soon.

But if England finish the job in Group L on Saturday, the football still might be coming home.

Dembélé powers France

Associated Press

France forward Ousmane Dembélé scored a first-half hat trick, including one off a feed from Kylian Mbappé, to help his team beat Norway 4-1 at the World Cup on Friday in Foxborough, Mass.

Dembélé's goals came in the seventh, 20th and 32nd minutes. It was the first first-half hat trick at the World Cup since Russia forward Oleg Salenko scored three of his five goals in the opening 45 minutes against Cameroon at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

WORLD CUP

Spain 1, Uruguay 0

Spain defeated Uruguay in Guadalajara, Mexico, after another goalkeeping mistake by Fernando Muslera to advance to the knockout stage and eliminate the South American powerhouse.

Senegal 5, Iraq 0

In Toronto, Senegal racked up the goals on 10-man Iraq in a victory that boosted their hopes of reaching the knockout stages. Pape Gueye scored two second-half goals as the Senegalese — vying to advance as from third place in Group I — took advantage of a first-half red card on Iraq defender Rebin Sulaka for preventing Sadio Mane from going in on goal alone.

Cape Verde 0, Saudi Arabia 0

In Houston, Cape Verde completed an improbable run through the group stage with a third straight draw to become the smallest country to earn a spot in the knockout round. The small island nation off the western coast of Africa, already held 2010 champion Spain to a 0-0 draw.

Belgium 5, New Zealand 1

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Leandro Trossard scored a pair of goals and Belgium overcame a slow start at the World Cup to advance to the knockout round with a 5-1 win over New Zealand. Belgium finished atop Group G and will face a third-place finisher on Wednesday in Seattle. The match was played simultaneously to the other group finale in Seattle between Egypt and Iran, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Direct deposit

Big Blue staff believe Banks can start to pay dividends

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

ON THE RISE: Deonte Banks' promising 2023 rookie season has yet to be replicated, pushing him close to bust status, but Giants coaches are confident that will change. Noah K. Murray

Sometimes one word is just that — one word.

Sometimes the way that one word is uttered makes all the difference.

Addison Lynch, the first-year Giants defensive backs coach, responded with only one word when asked if, in his limited time working with Deonte Banks, it was easy to see why Banks was a former first round draft pick. Lynch turned one word into a four-syllable declaration.

"Ab ... so ... lute ... ly," Lynch said.

That word can also be used to answer this question: Has Deonte Banks been a terrible first-round pick by the Giants?

After a promising 2023 rookie season, Banks dropped into the realm of bust status and it certainly would have been understandable if new head coach John Harbaugh preferred that his first Giants roster did not include a failed draft pick who at times showed a glaring lack of hustle as he played his way down the depth chart. Harbaugh, though, is all in on at least giving Banks a chance to make the team and prove that his career can be salvaged by tapping into his athletic pedigree.

"He has the intangibles," Lynch told The Post. "You see it in his body. He's big, he's fast, he can tackle, he can jump, he can catch. So it's my job to put him in the best positions to be able to bring those intangibles out all the time. Mama and daddy gave him a lot of skills so my job is to make mama and daddy's skill set shine on the field on Sundays."

Lynch is one of the key newcomers on Harbaugh's coaching staff tasked with extracting whatever value Banks can add to the 2026 Giants. Lynch is Banks' direct position coach. Donald D'Alesio is the passing game coordinator and secondary coach. Dennard Wilson is the defensive coordinator. All three are new to the Giants and arrived knowing Banks only as a college prospect. This is part of the clean-slate approach Harbaugh insisted he and his staff will implement, even though Harbaugh acknowledged Banks "hasn't played that great" in his time with the Giants.

"But is he capable of playing a lot better? I think he is," Harbaugh said.

New eyes are now on him.

"Yeah, I know Banks," Wilson said. "I remember evaluating him coming out. He's a Maryland Terp and I'm a Maryland Terp. I had just a little bit of background with him. He's a talented player. He's big. He can run. He brings an element of physicality, but he's had an up-and-down career thus far."

Wilson said D'Alesio and Lynch are "two great DB coaches" who will do "an excellent job in teaching DB play, footwork, technique, eyes."

Alas, these coaches are not miracle workers and Banks will be the one most responsible for changing his career trajectory. The Giants did not exactly clear a path to the field for him. They signed former Browns first round pick Greg Newsome II to a one-year, $8 million contract and in the second round of the 2026 NFL draft selected Colton Hood with the 37th overall pick. Paulson Adebo, the 2025 big-ticket free agent signing, returns after a so-so first season with the Giants. Dru Phillips is back as a slot corner. In the spring, Adebo and Newsome lined up as the starters on the perimeter.

A defense cannot have too many cornerbacks but Banks is going to have to impress the new regime to claim a spot. He counts $4.3 million on the salary cap and cutting him would create that much in dead money. Banks last season was eventually relegated to kick returner duties. He will not make the team in that capacity this time around.

"We tried to show him that his consistency was his deal," Lynch said. "He just wasn't consistent getting lined up fast, wasn't consistent with his feet. He's improved his consistency so now his play is improved, now his confidence is up and he can just roll into the season."

In the organized team activity practices and mandatory minicamp, Banks, 25, showed some of the urgency that was lacking in previous years. That created momentum for him leading into training camp in late July.

Banks was at his best as a rookie when used as a press corner in Wink Martindale's defense and it is believed Wilson will use Banks in a similar way.

"I love how he's handling it," Lynch said. "Right now he's being an absolute pro. He's doing the extra work, he's in his book, he's doing everything we ask him. He's making plays on the ball and he's doing a really good job handling himself play in and play out. He's made major improvements that when he's tired he relies on his technique and he's getting more technical sound so everything with him is trending in the right direction."

It would be "ab ... so ... lute ... ly" an upset if trending in the right direction leads to a roster spot and a role for Banks. He is in the final year of his rookie contract and the desirable size (6-foot-2, 200 pounds), speed and strength that allowed him to last this long will have to be harnessed and unleashed to keep him around much longer.

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Burress' SB 42 touchdown ball goes up for auction

By SPENCER BROD

You now have a chance to hold Plaxico Burress' historic Super Bowl moment in your hands.

The former Giants star receiver is selling the football he caught in Super Bowl 42, which gave the Giants a 17-14 win over the then-undefeated Patriots in one of the greatest upsets in NFL history.

With the Giants trailing 14-10 in the waning minutes of the fourth quarter after David Tyree's iconic "Helmet Catch," Eli Manning found Burress for the historic go-ahead touchdown.

The ball, which Burress said referees didn't get the chance to switch out, has remained in the receiver's New Jersey living room for 18 years.

The famous pigskin is now up for auction on Sotheby's for an estimated $100,000-$200,000, with no reserve pricing.

"Few footballs in the history of the game carry the weight of this one. This is the ball from the final touchdown of Super Bowl XLII, the play that put the Giants ahead 17-14 and sealed one of the most stunning upsets the sport has ever seen over the New England Patriots," the listing reads. "It comes directly from Plaxico Burress, the man who hauled in Eli Manning's pass for the game-winning score."

After scoring the touchdown to end the Patriots' perfect season, Burress' career went downhill quickly, as he served 20 months in prison after pleading guilty to attempted criminal possession of a weapon after shooting himself in the leg at a nightclub in 2008.

Following a two-year NFL hiatus, Burress returned to the league in 2011 with the Jets, where he posted 612 receiving yards and eight touchdowns.

Before the Super Bowl catch, Burress was known for his Steelers tenure, where he tallied two 1,000-yard-plus seasons.

MIXED MESSAGE

Pochettino hypes every match as most important USMNT has ever played ... except Thurs. vs. Turkey

By ETHAN SEARS

IRVINE, Calif. — Mauricio Pochettino spent most of his first 18 months as the U.S. men's national team's manager trying, begging and imploring anyone who would listen to treat every game as if it was the World Cup.

He insisted there was no first or second team. He was offended — still is, if we're being honest — that not everyone was interested in last summer's Gold Cup. He talked about how in Spain and France and Argentina and Brazil, getting called up to the national team under any circumstance is something players would crawl over broken glass to do, and how he wanted that to be the case here.

So it was sort of strange on Thursday night to see Pochettino take offense at questions that assumed his team's 3-2 loss to Turkey, in which they conceded a winner on the game's final kick, might matter or affect momentum in some way. In a sense, all those questions did was take him at his word.

"I am happy. Maybe I am not showing because your questions are a little bit weird," Pochettino said. "When I arrive here, I am confused. Maybe the mood or the vibe is like we go home tonight and Turkey stays, no?"

In fairness to Pochettino, he's obviously right that the game itself was only a dead rubber. His decision to heavily rotate was an easy one, almost certainly correct, and he's done a terrific job managing this team through the group stage.

No one's denying him any of that. Every media outlet in the country spent the last week giving him and his team the most congratulatory possible coverage. No one's opinion of this team or its chances of beating Bosnia and Herzegovina should be seriously affected by Thursday night's performance.

But that's different from acting as though the game simply didn't happen. The U.S. did have its defensive depth exposed, Auston Trusty did roll his ankle in the lead-up to the winner and players like Tim Weah, Brenden Aaronson and Ricardo Pepi — all of whom could have roles to play off the bench in the knockouts — all struggled to impact the game.

That does matter, and so too do the positives from the night, namely Christian Pulisic looking dynamic in his return from injury and Sebastian Berhalter notching a goal and assist while every set piece he took looked dangerous.

And, just as a matter of principle, Pochettino can't have his cake and eat it too.

If you want every game to be treated seriously, if you start calling friendly matches unofficial games and make it a bedrock part of your culture to try and vanquish the idea that there are such things as meaningless games, you can't turn around after a loss and say that the game was meaningless.

At best, it's bizarre. At worst, it undermines his message. Surely no one in France, Brazil, Argentina or Spain would handwave a loss at the World Cup under the same circumstances.

That, by the way, doesn't mean Pochettino couldn't have acknowledged the situation, or that it wasn't worth risking injuries and second yellow cards to his starters. Players handled similar questions the way you would expect, with perspective and attempts at optimism.

"I wouldn't say we lost momentum," Chris Richards said., "Everything's a learning opportunity. Regardless if you win or lose, kind of the same mentality when you go into it. We're back to work."

Pochettino, in contrast, couldn't get over his incredulity that anyone would assign even the most mildly negative implications to losing a game.

"Sorry guys, it cannot be possible that Turkey finished their third point and Australia celebrates their qualification, Paraguay celebrates their qualification and [I] come here and for you [media] not to say congratulations that we won the group," Pochettino said before abruptly exiting the dais. "That is a little bit sad. But only that I need you and everyone to remember that we won the group. Sorry guys. We won."

The final score was Turkey 3, USA 2. It's OK to acknowledge that.

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Coach offered contract extension through 2030

IRVINE, Calif. — U.S. Soccer CEO J.T. Batson wasn't kidding when he said last month he's talked with Mauricio Pochettino about a contract extension.

The U.S. Soccer Federation has presented Pochettino with an extension through the 2030 World Cup cycle, according to The Athletic, though any final decisions will be made after this summer's competition concludes.

The proposal was reportedly made before the World Cup, where Pochettino's side topped Group D to earn a spot in the Round of 32 against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Pochettino has consistently framed his commitment to the national team as being through the 2026 World Cup, while making little secret of his desire to return to the English Premier League.

— *Ethan Sears*

A DIFFERENT TUNE: USMNT coach Mauricio Pochettino, with Christian Pulisic on Thursday night, has taken every match the team has played under his tutelage as if it's in the World Cup. So it's curious that despite having Group D wrapped up, Pochettino sat several regulars. Getty Images

U.S. fans seeing something they've never seen before

Mark Cannizzaro

IRVINE, Calif. — If you are of a certain age and have followed U.S. soccer in World Cup play further back than this current 2026 group, you'll remember that goals came as frequently for the Americans as playoff appearances for the Jets and wins for the current Mets.

Historically, goals have been scarce in World Cup play for the U.S. ... until now.

LOTS OF WEAPONS: For the first time in our lifetime, the USMNT has multiple players capable of scoring — like Folarin Balogun (left), celebrating a goal with Antonee Robinson. Imagn Images

This U.S. side, with the two goals it scored in a 3-2 last-second loss to Turkey in its final Group D match Thursday night at L.A. Stadium, scored a record eight goals in group play.

The previous record was seven, which came 96 years ago, in 1930.

In the past eight World Cups, dating back to 1994 when America last hosted the global tournament, the U.S. scored 23 goals in 24 matches. That's not enough.

Overall, entering this year, the U.S. had played a total of 37 World Cup matches and scored just 40 goals all time. Again, not enough.

There was once a time when if Landon Donovan, and later, Clint Dempsey, didn't score the U.S. had little chance of winning. It felt like a one-man attack back then.

The margin for error was as thin as a blade of grass, which is as much a reason as any that the U.S. has just one quarterfinal appearance in its last eight World Cups (in 2002, when it lost to Germany, 1-0).

Current U.S. defender Tim Ream remembers, because, at age 38, he has more history with U.S. soccer than his younger teammates.

"You remember winning games, 1-0, low-scoring games," Ream told The Post. "Those are exciting in their own right, but they leave very little margin for error. Now, we have guys contributing in all kinds of different ways, goals are coming from everywhere.

"It's exciting for us and it gives us a dynamic where teams can't just focus on one player. We can spread the wealth."

Compared to U.S. teams of the past, there is, indeed, a wealth of dynamic offensive talent.

Add to that Argentine manager Mauricio Pochettino's aggressive offensive system and you have the most dynamic attack in U.S. history.

"Obviously, the system helps and the talent helps," Ream said. "You marry those two things together and it creates results, creates goals, creates wins. You feel at times that every time we attack, it could end in a goal. When you have that kind of firepower, it's a nice feeling."

It's a feeling no USMNT has had in our lifetimes.

Jesús Pérez, Pochettino's top assistant, unwittingly explained the difference between then and now best when he spoke of the philosophy of this coaching regime.

"The way we manage the team is, rather than saying 'be careful,' we say 'try,' " Pérez told The Post.

The U.S. teams of the past always looked like they played with too much caution, because they knew they didn't have the offensive firepower to make up for mistakes. That's a big reason you saw so many 1-0, 1-1 and 2-1 results.

This U.S. team can make up for mistakes because it has the offensive firepower to do so.

Donovan is the USMNT's all-time leading scorer with five goals in 12 matches in his three World Cups. Dempsey had four goals in his 10 games in three World Cups.

Current striker Folarin Balogun, in just two World Cup matches, already is one of just four U.S. players to score more than one goal in World Cup play.

Christian Pulisic called Balogun, who has 11 goals in 29 international appearances for the U.S., "a killer when he's on the field."

This U.S. team has multiple "killers" with potential to score.

"We've recently scored a lot of goals, and those guys will continue firing," midfielder Tyler Adams said. "We have a lot of quality players in the front side of the pitch who are dangerous. I think any moment, anybody can come to the game and score."

The players love playing in Pochettino's system.

"It's quite fluid the way that we move," Pulisic said. "It's not like everyone has to stay still in one exact position. It's pretty clear that [Pochettino] wants us to find the spaces, move around, create overloads, create problems for the other team. I feel like we've done a good job of that so far."

Defender Chris Richards called it "fun for us guys in the back, because the guys in front are balling right now."

Defender Sergino Dest pointed to the "intensity" of the attack as the team's superpower.

"With that intensity, it's really difficult for other teams to stop us," Dest told The Post on Thursday night. "From the start of the tournament, we started to play with a lot of intensity as a team. I think we've changed the perception of how people see us."

Yes, as goal scorers.

It's almost unrecognizable from past teams, but it's a beautiful thing to watch.

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Jury out on decision to use bench

By MICHAEL DUARTE

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Every coach at the World Cup says the knockout rounds are all that matter.

Very few are willing to prove it.

Mauricio Pochettino did.

After the United States had already wrapped up first place in Group D, 10 new starters walked onto the field at SoFi Stadium, with Weston McKennie standing alone as the only player to start all three group-stage matches.

The result was a 3-2 defeat that snapped America's perfect start and denied the hosts something no U.S. men's team has ever accomplished at a World Cup: three wins in three group-stage matches.

Was it the right call?

The honest answer is we won't know until July 1 at Levi's Stadium.

If the U.S. comes out sluggish against Bosnia and Herzegovina, disconnected and lacking the chemistry that overwhelmed Paraguay and Australia, Thursday will be remembered as the night Pochettino interrupted his own momentum. But if his first-choice lineup looks quicker, sharper and fresher over 90 minutes because it had an extra week to recover, then this loss becomes little more than the price of thinking several moves ahead.

There were undeniable benefits.

Instead of rushing Christian Pulisic back from an injured left calf back, Pochettino eased his superstar into the tournament. Pulisic entered in the 58th minute and immediately transformed the American attack. The passing became cleaner. The movement became more dangerous. The U.S. suddenly looked capable of creating chances from open play instead of relying almost exclusively on set pieces as they had in the first half.

The match also served as an invaluable audition.

Sebastian Berhalter seized it, delivering dangerous service on corner kicks and scoring a goal. Auston Trusty found the net as well and looked composed before rolling his ankle, an unfortunate reminder of how quickly fortunes can change in tournament soccer. Had that injury happened to Chris Richards instead, the Round of 32 could have looked dramatically different.

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SOME LEE-WAY?

Islanders in tough spot as they decide captain's future

Ethan Sears

THE door is not closed, not yet, not officially, on Anders Lee to return to the Islanders. No one is eager to see the captain leave, not when he's just 77 games away from becoming the fourth player ever to hit 1,000 games in blue and orange, not when his leadership still means so much to this team, not when he's still a perfectly productive player, scoring 19 times last year at age 35.

Maybe Lee's camp and Mathieu Darche find a way between now and Wednesday to keep him on Long Island. But all the noise and rumors leading into Day 1 of the NHL draft on Friday indicated that one side or another would have to compromise, likely on terms as opposed to dollars.

"We'll see," Darche said Friday night after using the 13th pick to select Swedish defenseman Malte Gustafsson. "July 1 is Wednesday. I talked with the agent [Neil Sheehy] yesterday. ... Still talking. We'll see what happens in the next three days."

Darche proved last summer with Noah Dobson that when he draws a line in the sand, he won't step over it. Lee, an NHLPA rep for the Islanders who would be one of the top free agents available should he make it to market — albeit in an underwhelming class — will be understandably wary of doing the same. It's been clear since breakup day that things could end in an amicable separation.

Under Lou Lamoriello, front office decisions seemed driven by nostalgia and stubbornness that, years after the fact, the core that got to two conference finals during the pandemic could still compete. If Lee plays next season in another uniform, you would be seeing the opposite philosophy at work, which, it's worth saying, the fan base spent a long time agitating for.

Letting Lee walk would be as ruthless a move as the Islanders have made in some time — granted, there's not a high bar — and wouldn't help Darche's popularity with a fan base that's still unhappy over trades for Ondrej Palat and Brayden Schenn, the latter of which looks more and more like a safety valve for Lee's departure.

On a hockey level, you'd have to defer judgment and see how the rest of the offseason plays out. The Islanders, who have so far stayed quiet as the rest of the league went haywire in the days leading into the draft, can't afford to sit on their hands much longer. But on its face, letting a soon-to-be 36-year-old walk isn't the most objectionable thing anyone has ever done.

Lee, though, is a different case, not only because of his continued production into his mid-30s, but because of what he means to the franchise. He's a consummate leader, an excellent representative and spokesman for the franchise, the sort of person the Islanders should want every young player in their newly replenished farm system looking up to as a model for how to behave and carry themselves as a professional hockey player.

There's also Lee's current teammates, who would and have gone to war for him.

"He sticks up for everyone in here and he did for me also," Jean-Gabriel Pageau said on breakup day. "Not only on the ice but off the ice. Sometimes, when you need someone to talk to, he's so easy to talk to. That's why he's the captain."

"I feel like you're a captain of a team and from a fan's perspective, it's like, he's the leader in the room or whatnot, but there's a lot of work behind the scenes that goes into it with media or different meetings," Ryan Pulock said. "Probably more than I realize, to be honest with you. He gets it all done. He's doing it for us and the rest of the guys in this room."

To lose Lee would be to lose something fundamental to the Islanders' dressing room. That ought to be considered very carefully.

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NY ISLANDERS
WARRIOR
NEW YORK LOTTERY
PLEASE PLAY RESPONSIBLY

HARD CHOICE: Anders Lee's importance to the Islanders locker room is something that must be taken into consideration, The Post's Ethan Sears writes. Corey Sipkin

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Green's future is in development perch

By MIKE PUMA

Andy Green will receive a half-season as Mets manager. Beyond that, he plans on returning to his old job.

For Green, that will mean overseeing the organization's player development, a role he held for the last 2 ½ seasons before he was tabbed to replace fired Carlos Mendoza on Friday in the Mets dugout.

"I loved the role I was in — I chose that role," Green said before a 2-1 loss to the Phillies at Citi Field. "I chose to come out of the dugout. I chose repetitively to turn down [managerial] opportunities in other organizations."

Carson Benge, A.J. Ewing and Nolan McLean are among the rookies on this Mets roster that Green, a former Padres manager, was instrumental in helping to develop.

METS NOTES

"It's freaking fun," Green said. "You freaking love what you get the chance to do ... you fall in love with some people before the city gets to fall in love with them and I love that. I chose that because I genuinely love the people I work with here."

Andrew Christie, the organization's director of player development, will oversee the farm system as Green fills the managerial role. But Green said he will remain involved to a degree in player development.

➤ **Tyrone Taylor** returned from the injured list after missing the last month with a right hip flexor strain. He did not play Friday. **MJ Melendez** was optioned to Triple-A Syracuse to create roster space. The Mets also optioned reliever **Daniel Duarte**, with **Zach Thornton** recalled from Syracuse to start against the Phillies.

➤ **Christian Scott**, who will return from the IL on Saturday to start, is among the players with a connection to Green as a recent Mets farmhand.

"He's the man," Scott said. "He has a lot of experience being a manager, player and also in the front office, so he understands the aspects of the game and kind of carry that experience and instill it with the younger guys."

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A ROLL OF THE

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: Pavel Dorofeyev, one of just 12 NHL players to score 35 or more goals in each of the last two seasons, arrives on Broadway as the Rangers sent the Nos. 26 and 92 picks in this year's draft — plus a top 10 protected first-round pick in 2028 — to the Golden Knights.

Getty Images

Blueshirts deal for elite Vegas scorer Dorofeyev

By MOLLIE WALKER

The Rangers added a young premier talent during the NHL draft, and they also made their fifth overall selection.

Dealing the Nos. 26 and 92 picks they would have made over Friday and Saturday to Vegas, as well as a top 10 protected first-rounder in 2028, the Blueshirts acquired a high-end goal scorer in Pavel Dorofeyev and subsequently locked the 25-year-old restricted free agent into a seven-year deal with an average annual value of $11 million.

Dorofeyev is one of just 12 NHL players to score 35-plus goals in each of the last two seasons, a testament to his ability to bring production to the Rangers top six and power play.

The move came after an offer the Rangers put in for the Ducks' Mason McTavish lost traction as the first round of the draft approached Friday. It reportedly was one of two offers, and St. Louis ultimately landed the 23-year-old center in exchange for the Nos. 15 and 29 picks.

President and general manager Chris Drury continues to seek ways to add youth and skill to the Rangers lineup.

Dorofeyev is exactly the type of player Drury assured he would target in the Letter 2.0.

Coming off a career-best season in which he recorded 37 goals and 64 points, Dorofeyev played a key role in Vegas reaching the Stanley Cup Final this season. The left wing's impact carried over into the playoffs, where his 12 goals in 22 games were second only to Brett Howden (14).

After breaking out during the 2024-25 season with 35 goals, the Russian sharpshooter has been Vegas'

NHL-ready blueliner Šmits goes to Rangers

By MOLLIE WALKER

One of the more NHL-ready prospects available in this year's draft is a Ranger.

The Blueshirts selected Alberts Šmits with the No. 5 pick in the NHL draft Friday night, adding the left-handed defenseman to a defensive prospect pool that is in need of some shoring up during this retool.

"It's kind of a relief that the Rangers took me," Šmits said on a Zoom call after he heard his name called in Buffalo. "I'm really happy to go to New York."

Equipped with two first-round picks as Friday began, the Rangers ended up trading the No. 26 selection to Vegas — as well as one of their four third-rounders (No. 92) plus a top-10 protected first-rounder in 2028 — in exchange for young sharpshooter Pavel Dorofeyev.

Hanging on to the fifth-overall pick and still landing Dorofeyev certainly was a win for the organization. Signing the 25-year-old Russian to a seven-year, $77 million contract put a bow on the deal.

That fifth-overall pick was an important asset to utilize and the Rangers came away with a prospect who is believed to be the most NHL-ready defenseman available in this draft class.

The 18-year-old Šmits spent the last season playing professionally in Finland's Liiga and for Munich in Germany's DEL. Going up against grown men in Europe's top professional leagues, the 6-foot-3 Latvian is said to have the build and defensive prowess to make the jump to the NHL.

It's likely that Šmits will sign his entry-level contract sometime soon and report to New York for this upcoming training camp.

"Alberts is very competitive," Rangers director of player personnel and director of amateur scouting John Lilley said on Zoom. "He's a very good two-way defenseman, defends very hard, good shot, offensively moves the puck. He just has a very well-rounded game. In terms of when he's ready to play, that'll take care of itself. That's not up to me. That's something that Dru and [head coach Mike Sullivan] will figure out as we move forward, but we think he's an excellent prospect and just thrilled to get him.

Šmits played a ton of hockey in 2025-26, participating in his first full pro season, the Olympics, World Juniors and World Championship.

At the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics this past February, Šmits made waves as the youngest player and lone draft-eligible prospect to compete in the tournament. He recorded two assists in four games for Latvia.

Rangers president and general manager Chris Drury, who served as assistant GM for Team USA at the Olympics, likely had a front-row seat to Šmits' performance in Italy.

With Jukirit in the Finnish Liiga last season, Šmits posted 13 points (six goals and seven assists) in 38 games while averaging around 20 minutes per game.

"I'm a two-way defenseman," Šmits said when asked to describe his game. "I'm trying to take care of the D-zone first. And then I also can create some offense and help the forwards in the offensive zone and create some offensive plays and try to create some chances for scoring."

The maturity in Šmits' game may put him on a faster track to the NHL level than some of the other prospects taken around him. There's a hard-nosed edge to his game that the Rangers clearly covet on their back end.

Šmits, who is inspired by Detroit's Moritz Seider, said he visited New York City last week.

"I loved it there," he said. "It's a great city."

DICE

leading goal scorer in each of the last two campaigns. The 20 power-play goals he scored last season were also good for the second most in the NHL.

Before acquiring Dorofeyev and selecting left-handed defenseman Alberts Šmits fifth overall, the Rangers started their draft day with a prospect swap.

Pending restricted free agent Brett Berard was traded to Montreal in exchange for defenseman William Trudeau.

Trudeau, 23, is a 2021 fourth-round pick who has spent the last four seasons in the AHL. The left-handed blueliner has yet to make his NHL debut.

A fifth-round pick in 2020 (134th overall) under the Jeff Gorton regime, Berard appeared in 48 games for the Rangers over the last two seasons. Despite an encouraging 2024-25 campaign in which he posted six goals and 10 points in 35 games with the Rangers, Berard was the last cut from training camp this past season.

After returning from the Rangers team bonding trip in Rhode Island to a Hartford assignment, Berard went without a goal through his first 14 games of the AHL season. When he was recalled by the Rangers at the end of November, Berard didn't do much with his opportunity.

The 23-year-old wasn't able to record a single point through 13 games.

Montreal drafted Trudeau 113th overall out of the Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League, where the young Canadian collected 90 points (20 goals, 70 assists) over three seasons with the Charlottetown Islanders.

The Rangers are pleased with the forward prospects who emerged as options despite the lost 2025-26 season. Berard had fallen down the depth chart amid strong showings from Gabe Perreault, Noah Laba, Jaroslav Chmelar and Adam Sykora.

Acquiring Dorofeyev and trading Berard were moves that threaded the needle on Drury's initiative to reshape the roster and prospect pool.

And the Rangers did it without forfeiting the chance to draft Šmits.

mwalker1@nypost.com

BRETT BERARD Traded to Montreal.

at No. 5 overall

ŠMIT-TEN: Alberts Šmits, a defenseman out of Latvia, dons a Rangers cap to go with the sweater of the franchise that selected him with the No. 5 overall pick in the 2026 NHL Draft on Friday night in Buffalo. Getty Images

SMILE, KIDS! Islanders draft pick Malte Gustafsson poses with new teammate Matthew Schaefer, the 2025 top overall pick and Calder Trophy winner Friday night. Getty Images

'Annoying' Gustafsson picked 13th by Isles

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The Islanders are continuing to build up their blue line.

After re-signing Tony DeAngelo to a two-year deal Friday, they later used their first-round pick (13th overall) in the NHL draft on Swede Malte Gustafsson. The pick was introduced by last year's No. 1 overall pick, Matthew Schaefer, who won the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie.

"Most strong teams that draft well, the strategy is always to take the best player available," general manager Mathieu Darche said. "Malte is a 6-4-½ if not 6-5, 200-pound defenseman. Very strong skater for his size, moves the puck, likes to play physical, hard to play against. You can never have enough defensemen, good defensemen. "

Gustafsson, known for his physicality as a showdown blueliner, comes from HV71 of the Swedish Hockey League (SHL), the country's top professional league. As a 17-year-old, he spent most of last year in the SHL and notched three assists in 27 regular-season games. He also appeared for the club's under-20 team and produced 12 points (four goals, eight assists) in 19 games.

Gustafsson recently signed a one-year extension to remain in Sweden, so he won't be joining the Islanders next year. He plans to take part in their development camp for prospects.

"I'm a big two-way defender. I like to contribute all over the ice," he said. "I like to use my size, my length, play physical and compete. I have a pretty similar style to Victor Hedman."

Gustafsson said he is "annoying" on the ice. Asked what that means, he replied: "hitting people."

Gustafsson, now 18, earned a gold medal as an alternate captain for Team Sweden at the 2026 IIHF Under-18 World Junior Championship. He was named to the tournament's All-Star Team after tallying five points (one goal, four assists) in six games. He also won a silver medal as an alternative captain for Sweden at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. He had six points (two goals, four assists) in five games.

"I debated with a few of our scouts about the big forwards. They're all saying, Malte is a guy that stops those guys," Darche said. "We're all happy with the pick."

Darche said he spoke to teams about potentially moving up in the draft, but the right trade didn't present itself. The Islanders will next pick tomorrow in the fourth round. They don't have a second- or third-round selection.

Islanders bring back DeAngelo

Earlier in the day, the Islanders announced a two-year deal to bring back DeAngelo.

The 30-year-old defenseman tallied 35 points (five goals, 30 assists) in a career-high 76 games with the Islanders last season, his second year with the club and his 10th in the league. He finished third on the team in assists and ranked second among Islanders defensemen in goals, points, power-play points (seven) and shots on goal (148).

The two-year deal is worth reportedly $4.5 million per season, a major raise for the veteran blueliner. Last offseason, the Isles signed him to a one-year deal after he had spent part of the previous season in the KHL.

When the Islanders initially signed DeAngelo the move was met with skepticism. He had been a controversial figure in his previous stops. As a Ranger in 2021, he got into a physical altercation with his own goaltender, Alexandar Georgiev, in the locker room tunnel following a loss. The incident led to him being placed on waivers and subsequently having his contract bought out.

But he has been a model Islander, and now he has been rewarded for his play.

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Leafs take McKenna at top of NHL draft

By JOHN WAWROW

With most of Yukon watching and a loud presence of Maple Leafs fans in the stands, Toronto selected Penn State forward Gavin McKenna with the first pick in the NHL draft on Friday night in Buffalo.

The 18-year-old McKenna is from Yukon's capital of Whitehorse and has been a prolific scorer on both sides of the border, with his selection validating the projections of the left winger being his age group's top prospect more than two years ago.

McKenna's selection was announced by longtime Leafs fan and Canadian-born international pop icon Justin Bieber.

"I got no words right now," McKenna said. "This is nuts. Obviously I want to start by thanking my family. I love you guys. I wouldn't be here without you guys."

As in 2016, there was a large contingent of blue and white jersey-wearing Leafs fans, with a "Go Leafs, go!" chant erupting once Toronto was placed on the clock. Saying "the child in me is ecstatic," Bieber joined NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman on stage and, after a short pause, looked over to McKenna and declared him being a member of the Maple Leafs.

Bieber teed up a video welcome message from Leafs captain Auston Matthews, who was their No. 1 pick a decade ago, when the draft was also in Buffalo.

"I know how exciting this is for you and your family and what an incredible honor it is," Matthews said. "We're just as excited to have you join the Maple Leafs and cannot wait to get started. You're coming to a franchise with an amazing history and base, and we're all working to write the next great chapter together. And you're going to be a very important part of that."

The Sharks took Swedish winger Ivar Stenberg with the No. 2 pick. Vancouver picks center Caleb Malhotra third, followed by Buffalo taking defenseman Daxon Rudolph fourth. *— AP*

BIG SHOES TO FILL

Here's where Knicks might turn to find Mitch's replacement

By JARED SCHWARTZ

The first hole on the Knicks roster appears to be emerging.

It is unlikely that they will bring back Mitchell Robinson, The Post's Stefan Bondy reported Thursday. The longest-tenured Knick is an unrestricted free agent and likely to get offers way above what the Knicks can afford to stay under the second apron, as owner James Dolan said he wants. During the draft and so far this offseason, the Knicks have operated like a team that intends to follow through on that demand.

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Robinson accounted for just under $13 million against the Knicks cap last year. Though there are plenty of question marks around him — his free-throw shooting, injury history and unreliability chief among them — he should be able to fetch a contract for similar average annual value, if not a bit more.

So, if Robinson does in fact go elsewhere, the Knicks will certainly need a backup center behind Karl-Anthony Towns. They probably won't be able to completely replace Robinson's impact when he's at his best, but who are some cheaper alternatives?

Yves Missi (trade)

There were some rumblings midseason that the Knicks might be interested in acquiring him ahead of the trade deadline, though that never materialized. He is not a free agent, though, so this would require a trade with the Pelicans.

Missi, 22, is set to make roughly $3.5 million next year, with a team option for 2027-28. A 6-foot-11 rim protector, he just finished his second year after New Orleans drafted him No. 21 overall in 2024.

Andre Drummond (free agent)

A stable veteran, he spent the last two years with the 76ers playing behind Joel Embiid — which often meant he had to start or play significant minutes given Embiid's frequent unavailability. He's always been a prolific rebounder and shot-blocker, and he's even added a bit of a 3-point shot recently.

It feels like Drummond's older than 32 years old. He is on the back end of his career, but he probably still has a bit of juice left.

The Knicks torched him in the second round, but he can be a serviceable backup.

Precious Achiuwa (free agent)

Perhaps a reunion? He's a bit of a tweener in between a power forward and center, but he spends plenty of time as an undersized center.

He emerged as a valuable bench piece in his 1 ½ seasons with the Knicks, and joked on social media that he felt left out of their championship run.

Goga Bitadze (trade)

He has one year left on his deal with his Magic and is set to be paid around $7.6 million.

He is huge — almost 7 feet and 250 pounds.

He played a similar workload as Robinson in both the regular season and playoffs.

GOGA BITADZE
One year left on Magic deal.

PRECIOUS ACHIUWA
Undersized at center.

ANDRE DRUMMOND
Veteran presence.

Alvarado to stay a Knick with new 3-year, $15M deal

By JARED SCHWARTZ

One of the first dominos of the Knicks' offseason now has clarity.

Jose Alvarado declined his $4.5 million player option for next season and intends to sign a three-year deal worth roughly $15 million, The Post confirmed. The exact breakdown of the deal was not immediately clear, since no contracts can be made official until July 6, but it likely keeps him in line with the $4.5 million value for the 2026-27 season and increasing in the subsequent two seasons.

That is crucial because the Knicks are operating in accordance to owner James Dolan's wishes to stay below the second apron next season and have a tight budget in order to do so.

"I'm home," Alvarado posted on X, along with blue and orange hearts.

Alvarado's deadline for the decision was originally on Monday, but he and the Knicks agreed to push it back to Friday, after the NBA draft.

He emerged as a key bench piece for the Knicks' championship run, providing the team with a true backup point guard they lacked before his arrival. He also added a bit of snarl and feistiness to a team that, at the time he was acquired, needed it.

They added him — after a series of moves that started with sending away Guerschon Yabusele — just ahead of the Feb. 5 trade deadline.

President Leon Rose recently praised Alvarado as one of his best under-the-radar moves in building the Knicks into champions.

"That was huge," Rose said on the "Roommates Show" podcast, "because we did need another ball handler, we needed another person that could put it on the floor and take some of the pressure off."

Alvarado's playing time as a Knick varied, but by the postseason and NBA Finals, he was playing critical minutes. Alvarado memorably scored eight points and drilled two 3-pointers during the Knicks' historic comeback in their 107-106 win in Game 4 of the Finals.

Alvarado, 28, also is a local kid, having been born in Brooklyn and playing high school basketball at Christ the King.

WE HAVE A DEAL: Jose Alvarado agreed to a reworked three-year, $15 million contract that will keep him in New York at a price the Knicks can afford. Getty Images

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MORE MISERY

Wheeler, Phils deal Mets 7th straight loss

By MIKE PUMA

Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

The Mets changed managers on Friday, but that hardly jump-started a lineup that had to deal with Zack Wheeler for most of the night. Now Andy Green knows what it was like to be Carlos Mendoza.

PHILLIES	**2**	**Boxscore Page 34**
METS	**1**	

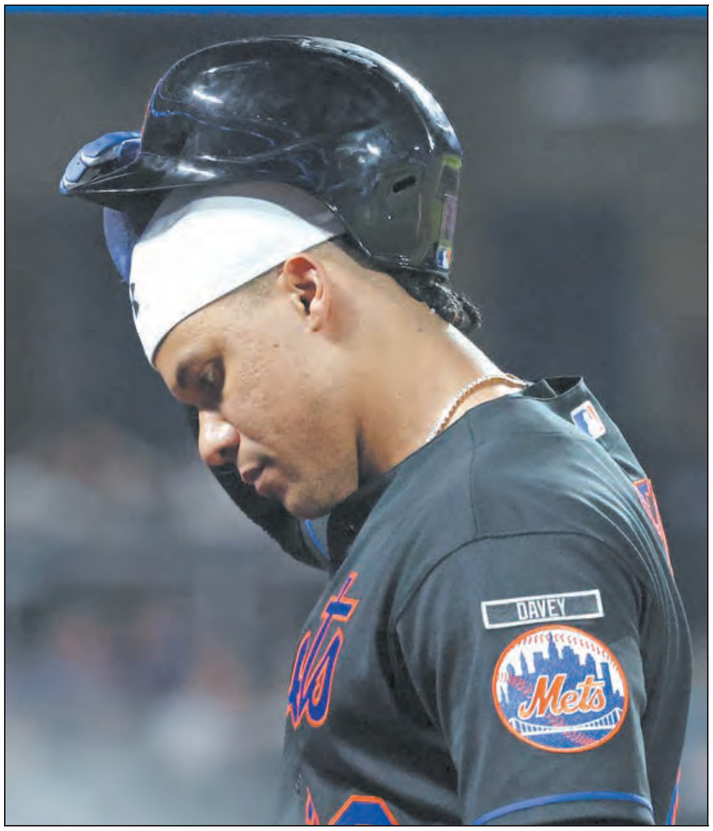
Green's crew managed only five hits in a 2-1 loss to the Phillies at Citi Field that extended the Mets' losing streak to seven games. Green took over as interim manager earlier in the day after Mendoza was fired.

The Mets (34-48) looked every bit like the team that entered the day ranked 29th in MLB with a .673 OPS. Their misery on this night included getting one-hit over the final five innings. It was the fifth time during their losing streak the Mets scored three runs or fewer.

"I thought the energy was good, the effort was what you want — we just weren't able to square up balls," Green said.

Zach Thornton, in his second major league start, was sharp over six innings. The left-hander, thrust into the rotation following David Peterson's trade to the Cubs and Kodai Senga's demotion to the bullpen, allowed one earned run on five hits with seven strikeouts and one walk.

"It just gives me the confidence I can compete with the best out there and I can get anybody out," Thornton said.



THAT KIND OF NIGHT: Juan Soto reacts after grounding out in the ninth inning Friday. Soto was robbed of a two-run homer in the first inning.
Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

But Green said a decision hadn't been reached on whether Thornton will remain in the rotation. Christian Scott will return from the injured list Saturday and it's possible Thornton will be the roster casualty.

Thornton surrendered three straight hits to begin the game, but escaped the first with only one run allowed. Bryce Harper delivered an RBI single that gave the Phillies a 1-0 lead after Trea Turner's leadoff double and Kyle Schwarber's ensuing single. Thornton rebounded to get three straight outs.

"Zach was really good, especially you are talking about a young kid who gets barreled up three consecutive times, gets a mound visit and settles in and gives us six great innings," Green said. "It's tough to win baseball games when you put one run on the board."

Derek Hill scaled the fence in right-center in the bottom of the inning to rob Juan Soto of a two-run homer. Carson Benge singled leading off before Hill fully extended over the fence for the larceny.

"It was an unbelievable catch," Soto said. "You see the replays and you see how impressive it was. He didn't have any timing — he just went straight to the wall and jumped. That was incredible."

Jared Young's RBI single in the fourth tied it 1-1. Bo Bichette's leadoff double ignited the rally before Young delivered against Wheeler.

Huascar Brazoban allowed an RBI single to Trea Turner in the seventh that gave the Phillies a 2-1 lead. Hill's leadoff single and Bryson Stott's walk gave the Phillies their base runners before Hill's single. It was a rare misstep for Brazoban, who wasn't scored upon in his previous seven appearances and began the night with a 1.82 ERA.

Wheeler dominated with a second good outing in less than a week against his former team. The right-hander allowed one earned run on four hits with five strikeouts and one walk over seven innings. Wheeler, in his return from surgery for thoracic outlet syndrome, has pitched to a 2.03 ERA in 11 starts this season.

"It's tough and it's part of baseball," Soto said. "We just haven't been coming through in big situations and that is kind of the way the game goes."

mpuma@nypost.com

ON DECK

vs. Phillies
Saturday, 4:10 p.m.,
SNY, WHSQ

TBD

2026 stats:
—

Career vs. PHI:
—

Last start:
—

PITCH BREAKDOWN

–%	**–%**	**–%**
–	–	–

RHP Alan Rangel

2026 stats:
0-0, 2.25 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
0-0, 0.00 ERA

Last start:
Monday vs. Nats;
5 IP, 1 ER, 4 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

37%	**36%**	**15%**
Changeup	**Fastball**	**Cutter**

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: vs. Phillies,
7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs.
LHP Jesús Luzardo

MONDAY: at Blue Jays,
7:07 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Christian Scott** is scheduled to be activated from the injured list for Saturday's start. The right-hander received a cortisone shot last week for a right hip impingement.

Boone believes his old pal Mendy will get another shot

By DAN MARTIN

BOSTON — Aaron Boone, the longest-tenured coach or manager in New York, saw his former bench coach become the latest casualty in the local coaching ranks, as Carlos Mendoza was fired during a miserable season for the Mets.

Mendoza was Boone's bench coach for four seasons before taking the job in Queens.

"I'm surprised I guess, but not surprised," Boone said of Mendoza's firing. "Obviously, it's a tough situation over there with what they've been through this year — and even going back to last year."

Boone said he'd spoken with Mendoza, who was in his third season with the Mets and was less than two years removed from an unexpected run to the NLCS in his first year.

"[Mendoza] is in a good place," said Boone, in his ninth season at the helm in The Bronx. "I think he's really good at what he does. I think he's a great leader that, as time goes on, my expectation is he'll be in line for another job in a lot of ways, shapes and forms."

Anyone around the Mets knows that plenty of blame for their failure both this season and in 2025 lies with president of baseball operations David Stearns, who overhauled the roster and coaching staff last offseason with disastrous results.

Mendoza paid the price for the consistent losing at Citi Field.

"He's earned a strong reputation in the industry and I think, even through all this, solidified that reputation," Boone said .

Asked if it was the timing that was surprising, Boone said, "It's always surprising. Can I say I'm really surprised this happened with what they've been through? No, not necessarily. But still, when you hear the news, it catches you."

And like others who know Mendoza, who began his coaching career in the Yankees organization in 2009 and was on the major league staff from 2018 until his departure for the Mets, Boone is bullish on Mendoza's future.

"I think he's a great baseball man," Boone said. "He's a really good leader. I think he's a really good manager that will get another opportunity."

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Mets notes / 44

AARON BOONE
Believes in Mendoza.

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INJURY REPORT

- **Aaron Judge** (right rib stress fracture) and **Giancarlo Stanton** (right calf strain) joined the Yankees at Fenway Park for this series, though neither is particularly close to a return from the injured list. It does not sound as if Judge is ready for more imaging yet while Stanton has just started to move around after suffering a setback earlier this month.

ON DECK

at Red Sox

Saturday, 1:10 p.m., ABC, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Gerrit Cole

2026 stats:
2-2, 3.62 ERA

Career vs. BOS:
7-6, 5.23 ERA

Last start:
Mon., at DET;
4.1 IP, 9 H, 5 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Slider	Changeup
45%	19%	15%

LHP Jake Bennett

2026 stats:
1-3, 3.71 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
First appearance

Last start:
Mon., at COL;
6.0 IP, 4 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Sinker	Changeup
33%	28%	26%

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Red Sox,
7:20 p.m., NBC, WFAN
LHP Carlos Rodón
vs. RHP Sonny Gray

MONDAY: vs. Tigers,
7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
LHP Ryan Weathers
vs. RHP Casey Mize

FLAILING AT

Yanks no match for Tolle, who retires first 16 batters he faces

By GREG JOYCE

RED SOX	**6**
YANKEES	**1**

Boxscore Page 34

BOSTON — The Yankees at least spared themselves the infamy of having a perfect game thrown against them.

They even mustered a run in the eighth inning.

But that is where the list of positive developments ended for them on Friday night at Fenway Park.

Red Sox lefty Payton Tolle dominated them across seven innings, allowing just one hit to Spencer Jones after retiring 16 straight to start the game, as the Yankees stumbled to a second straight loss by a score of 6-1.

"Good pitcher executing, it can be a tough game sometimes," manager Aaron Boone said. "So obviously just had a hard time to mount anything. But no issue with where our preparation and focus [were]. We just got beat tonight by him."

Tolle, who struck out 11 in six innings of one-run ball against the Yankees (48-33) in April, was even more untouchable on Friday night while striking out seven. Jones poked a single into center field off him with one out in the sixth, and Tolle later walked a pair in the seventh. But all three base runners proved harmless as he mowed down the Yankees, who have now lost six of their past nine.

The Yankees began the season 18-6 against lefty starters but have now dropped four of their last five, including the first two games of this four-game set against the last-place Red Sox (34-46).

"[Tolle] did a good job of filling up the zone, getting ahead in the count and then was able to do what he wanted to do with certain pitches," said Jones, who was getting a rare start against a lefty. "Credit to him, he was able to execute and get out ahead."

Besides Tolle vying for a perfect game, the only real drama — if you can call it that — of the night came in the bottom of the fifth inning, when the benches cleared after Will Warren walked Willson Contreras. Ball four was up and in on Contreras, who essentially stands on top of the plate, and he flipped his bat before jogging down to first and jawing at Warren.

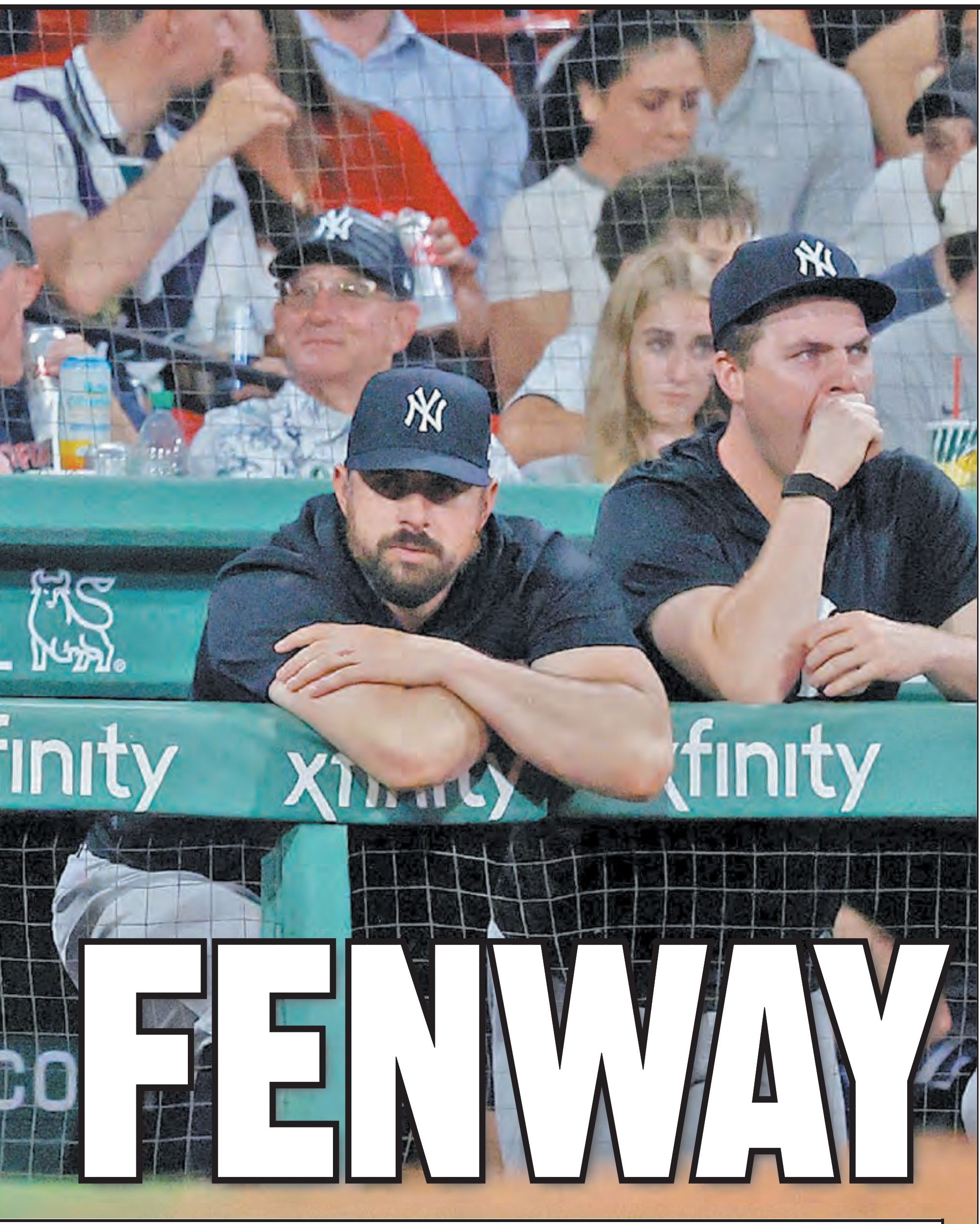
Contreras, who had crushed a 418-foot homer off Warren earlier in the game, seemed to want to know why the Yankees pitcher was looking at him. After some talking back and forth, both teams left their dugouts and bullpens to crowd around first base with nothing more than words exchanged.

"He said something, so I said something back," Warren said. "I'm just trying to make a pitch."

That only added to the frustration for Warren, who gave up five runs on seven hits and three walks across $5\frac{2}{3}$ innings. For the first time in his career, he did not record a single strikeout.

Warren was consistently hit hard even on outs, as 10 of the 24 balls the Red Sox put in play against him came off the bat at 95

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*



FENWAY

mph or higher.

After a strong first two months of the season, Warren has had a rockier June, giving up 16 runs (12 earned) on 27 hits in 19 $^2/_3$ innings across four starts, with left-handed hitters in particular giving him some trouble during that stretch.

"I'm not sure [why]," Warren said. "Just got to find a way to get them out. I've dealt with that in the minor leagues. The four-seam kind of changed that. Obviously they're on it right now, but we'll figure it out and move on."

After Tolle exited the game, the Yankees broke up the shutout against former teammate Tommy Kahnle in the eighth inning. Anthony Volpe led off with a double and eventually came in to score on Austin Wells' groundout to erase the goose egg and save some face.

"Obviously," Boone said, "just a tough night for us offensively."

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NOT THEIR NIGHT: The Yankees look on glumly from the dugout on Friday night, as they were dominated by Red Sox lefty Payton Tolle — who only gave up a single to Spencer Jones in the sixth inning.

AP; Getty Images

Benches empty, but no fighting after up-and-in pitch by Warren

By DAN MARTIN

BOSTON — Joe Torre was back at Fenway Park on Friday night for Red Sox-Yankees, so just for old times' sake, why not have a little drama between the two rivals?

What's become a mostly docile matchup in the AL East got some heat in the bottom of the fifth of a 6-1 Red Sox win, when Willson Contreras jawed at Will Warren as he headed to first base following a walk.

Warren, whose second pitch of the at-bat was up and in to Contreras — clearly crowding the plate — said some words back to Contreras and the benches cleared.

After Contreras homered and had an RBI single off Warren earlier in the game, Contreras flipped his bat after Warren walked him on a 3-2 pitch that was close to Contreras' elbow.

Contreras continued to shout at the right-hander once he got to the bag, with Paul Goldschmidt looking to calm the situation.

No punches were thrown and no one was ejected, but warnings were issued.

Warren got Jarren Duran to ground out to end the inning.

"It's part of the game," Contreras said of the incident. "Nothing happened. It looks worse when everybody comes out."

Warren didn't have much to add.

"Trying to make a pitch up and in," Warren said. "That's it."

Neither participant in the back-and-forth would divulge what was said.

"I'm making a pitch, being competitive," Warren said. "He said something, so I said something back. I'm just trying to make a pitch."

But Warren clearly wasn't pleased with Contreras' behavior at the plate, saying the slugger was "playing games in the [batters'] box."

Aaron Boone said it's what Contreras is known for.

"I think that's what he does a lot," the manager said. "His arms hang over the plate, so I don't know where we're supposed to go [with pitches]. I think there's probably a method to what he's doing. He probably wants that. But obviously, nothing's going on. We probably needed to do a better job of getting the ball in on him tonight and didn't. The warnings and the barking seemed kind of ridiculous."

Boone has a point, as only Starling Marte has been hit more times in his career than Contreras among active players.

Contreras was a menace to the Yankees all night, as he singled in a run in the first and homered to left in the third before the walk.

The Yankees, losers of six of nine, have bigger concerns than any antics by Contreras as they try to right themselves against the last-place Red Sox.

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YANKEES NOTES

Rice sits following 0-for-5 dud

By GREG JOYCE

BOSTON — After a rare rough night at the plate, Ben Rice got a rarer day off.

The Yankees slugger was out of the lineup Friday for a 6-1 loss against the Red Sox for the first time since May 7, the last of four straight games he missed with a left hand contusion.

"Feel like he's been grinding a little bit this week, just in this long stretch of lefties, felt like with him getting a day that opens up some different lanes for people," manager Aaron Boone said before the Yankees were shut down by lefty Payton Tolle.

Rice entered the game as a pinch hitter in the ninth inning but grounded out.

Boone said that Rice was "doing well" physically, but just wanted to give him a breather after he went 0-for-5 on Thursday — with all five at-bats coming against lefties and four of them with runners in scoring position.

Tolle marked the eighth lefty the Yankees have faced in the past 12 games. Over the past four games, Rice was hitting just 2-for-18, an uncommon blip in what has otherwise been a standout season — his .956 OPS still ranking sixth among all qualified hitters coming into the night.

➤ **Aaron Judge** and **Giancarlo Stanton** joined the Yankees at Fenway Park on Thursday, but that was not an indication that either of them are anywhere close to a return.

Next week will mark four weeks since Judge was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his first right rib, at which point the Yankees said he would be "re-imaged in approximately 4-6 weeks." But it does not sound like there are plans to check on Judge's rib next week.

Stanton, meanwhile, has just started to move around again after suffering a setback in his right calf earlier this month while running the bases, when he was just a few days away from a potential return.

➤ **Ali Sánchez** was activated off the paternity list Friday and went right into the lineup against Tolle, going 0-for-2 before being pinch hit for by **Austin Wells** in the eighth. The right-handed hitting catcher has been solid in limited playing time, entering the night batting .316 with an .802 OPS and three RBIs in 21 plate appearances.

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

AMAZIN' DISGRACE

GOING GREEN

Interim skipper felt a 'responsibility' to help Mets by stepping back into dugout

By JAKE NISSE

Andy Green wasn't expecting a return to the dugout.

But following the firing of Carlos Mendoza, the Mets' senior vice president of baseball development felt a "responsibility" to step in on an interim basis — and help ease the "burden" on players to perform amid this nightmarish season.

"Guys play their best when they play with joy," said Green, who had been serving as the team's senior vice president of baseball development. "Guys play their best when they realize this isn't about strategy, it's about freedom."

Green, who managed the Padres from 2016-19, was completely happy in his front office role in the minors, which president of baseball operations David Stearns said he will return to at the end of this season. The former utility infielder and short-lived Mets player (he suited up for the team four times in 2009) "loved" running the team's farm system, said he rejected other chances to manage and enjoyed being able to spend more time with his three daughters.

This, Green said in a captivating press conference, "wasn't something I was running to."

"This felt like a responsibility more than an opportunity. Once it was made known to me that there was nothing that was going to change [in terms of his development role], once I learned that, I genuinely believe that given my life experience, I was best positioned to help over the next three months and see what we can get done as a group."

There's no guarantees that Green, who amassed a 274-366 record in San Diego, will inspire a turnaround for this Mets team, who entered Friday's matchup against the Phillies riding a six-game losing streak and two days removed from a six-error disaster against Chicago.

Green, who knows Carson Benge, A.J. Ewing and Nolan McLean from their time in the minors, believes this team can defend better overall. He also seems a good bet to provide a jolt to the Mets' clubhouse, as he admitted that "there's been plenty enough people that have not loved my leadership style."

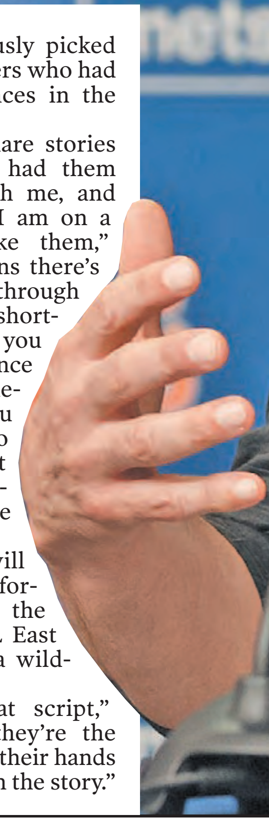
"I will show up every day with the humility to know that I only impact so much, and I will show up every day willing to challenge people, and I think that's how you end up earning respect of people," he said. "If they choose to see me in a different light, I am not going to be bothered by that."

The interim boss, who played three seasons for the Diamondbacks, didn't reach the playoffs during four seasons in San Diego but evidently took plenty of lessons from his time out West and said he previously picked the brains of managers who had gotten second chances in the role.

"I've had them share stories with me, and I've had them share learnings with me, and that doesn't mean I am on a pathway to be like them," Green said. "It means there's freedom to go through struggle, failure, shortcoming, and realize you didn't die, because once you realize something's not fatal, you have the capacity to go through it without the stress that transfers to everybody else in the building."

For now, Green will hope to change the fortunes of a team in the basement of the NL East and nowhere near a wild-card spot.

"We can flip that script," Green said, "and they're the ones with the pen in their hands to get that all through the story."



Mendoza is taking the hit, but he wasn't the one who

Jon Heyman

WITH THIS sort of unworkable roster and this kind of unreal luck, it was only a matter of time before poor Carlos Mendoza took the hit. And I mean time as in games or weeks or months at the most, certainly not seasons. Once the Mets started playing and revealing how bad they were, Mendoza's time was always as short as the list of capable, healthy players at his disposal.

Mendoza's firing by the Mets on Thursday wasn't fair. But that's baseball. In the time-worn blame rotation, the manager almost always comes now, after the coaching staff, which was purged in winter in one of about a hundred blunders Mendoza witnessed but didn't execute.

Mendoza isn't the one who formed this hopeless squad. He isn't the one who let franchise legend Pete Alonso walk without an offer. Who thought an aging Marcus Semien at $25 million per year for three years was a better idea than Brandon Nimmo at $20 million a year for five years. Or the one who believed that the annually ailing Jorge Polanco and Luis Robert Jr. would produce commensurate with their ridiculous $20 million salaries.

No, this mess is on baseball president David Stearns. But of course, Stearns was not going to be the one to go now. That's just not how it works. Deserved or not, the guy making $10M-plus with two-plus years to go on his deal who was seen as the savior coming in and who runs the show is the one who has the staying power.

But let's be real here: Stearns' remake is a bust.

None of the real impact moves are a hit, not Polanco, not Robert, not Semien, not even Bo Bichette, the biggest star who's needed a major hot streak to even bring his numbers close to league average.

Mendoza was actually one of Stearns' better calls. While we could assign C-minuses or less to most of the player acquisitions, the Mendoza hiring gets an INC for incomplete. No sir, we aren't going to judge him harshly on an impossible task.

The Mets spent near-record dollars, and Mendoza at times had no better choice than to bat in the coveted, marquee third spot a hot quadruple-A guy, M.J. Melendez, who was sent down Thursday. The lineup is limp, the rotation in constant flux. The Mets are spending $380M (plus tax). But they don't have a $380M roster.

If they are counting on a jolt from their managerial change, it's too late for that. And more to the point, this team isn't close to good enough. The Mets won't say exactly that. But everyone should know it by now.

"There's no magic bullet here," Stearns admitted. "There's no one change that's immediately going to turn this around."

Stearns' admiration for Mendoza remains evident. He noted that the players "loved Mendy," and it's clear he does, too. Stearns said he didn't believe Mendoza lost the clubhouse. And I believe that, too.

Stearns explained the move by saying "it was time to try something a little bit different." Which is a fancy

HERE TO HELP: Mets interim manager Andy Green, who previously managed the Padres and played four games for the Amazin's in 2009 (right), said he felt a responsibility to jump back into the dugout to help the team after Carlos Mendoza was fired Friday.

Robert Sabo; Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post; Getty Images

constructed this Amazin'ly bad team

way of saying, "We might as well give it a shot."

That a heady David Peterson once failed to back up home wasn't the reason they are 34-47. That an over-eager Mark Vientos once ran through a stop sign isn't why they are on pace for their worst record in 23 years. Neither is a sloppy series sweep to the Cubs the reason they have played their way out of things before July.

Stearns noted that things have "gotten worse" in recent days. But that's merely the nature of a horrible team. A bad team's season is, by definition, a roller coaster, with a few highs and more lows.

If they look unprepared, consider they rely on two rookies starting and have multiple players playing out of position. That's not on Mendoza.

Which is why there's serious skepticism here about Stearns' ability to remake this squad again, a year after he remade it. He can keep telling us he believes in the talent, but collectively, they have stunk through 81 games.

This redo will be harder, too, since this team is even worse than last year, back in the good days when we thought 83 wins was a disaster. There are no magic bullets, but he's going to need to string several great decisions.

The first big call is the next manager, and Stearns and interim skipper Andy Green are doing right announcing Green will be returning to the front office, where he generally thrived, following this season. (They must also correctly surmise he isn't rallying this team to a Canyon of Heroes ending.)

The players are 90 percent of the equation, but it would be nice to get manager right. Mendoza deserves a very small percentage of blame here (my official estimate: 1 percent), so perhaps we should have more faith Stearns can pick managers than players.

In any guess, I'll give him a nudge. The next manager needs to be someone with serious experience and real gravitas. There's no sense guessing who can do the job and hiring another neophyte.

Alex Cora should be the obvious choice. He's a managerial savant. He also has a World Series ring, which is something the Mets seem about a million miles from acquiring now.

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Collins: Mendy replacement loves the game

By DAN MARTIN

BOSTON — Andy Green might not be in the Mets dugout for long as he takes over for the fired Carlos Mendoza, but one of his Citi Field predecessors is confident the new interim manager could have a positive impact while he's there.

Terry Collins was the organization's minor league field coordinator in 2010, when Green was in his final season as a player.

Green spent most of that season at Triple-A Buffalo and talked with Collins, who went on to take the Mets manager job the following season.

"I talked to Green about maybe managing that year," Collins said by phone Friday. "He was smart, knowledgeable and loved the game. At the time, he wasn't sure if he wanted to keep playing."

Green, who played 140 games in the majors over parts of four seasons — including four games with the Mets in 2009 — took Collins' advice and went into coaching in 2011 and got back to the majors as the third base coach for the Diamondbacks in 2015.

A year later, he was the Padres manager.

"All of a sudden he was a major league coach and then manager," Collins said of Green, who is headed back to the front office following the season.

"I think he can be a good manager," Collins said. "He's an intense guy. Maybe that's what they need. Carlos did a great job getting them turned around and having that run in 2024. Sometimes a different voice or personality can help."

Green, like Collins, was an undersized player who tried to get the most out of his ability.

"We weren't blessed with power or size," Collins said of Green, who had been serving as the Mets Senior VP of Player Development. "Guys like that know you have to play harder than everyone else. Maybe that will help in there."

Collins recalled fondly the altercation between Green and Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, when the two got into an argument while meeting with umpires during a game in 2017 that resulted in Roberts shoving Green, which earned him a suspension.

"Andy is intense," Collins said. "Maybe that's what they need. Their players weren't executing. I wish Andy well there and I know Carlos is gonna land on his feet."

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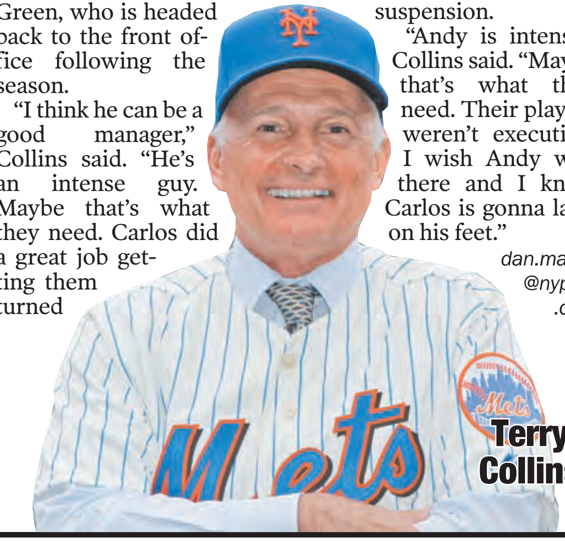
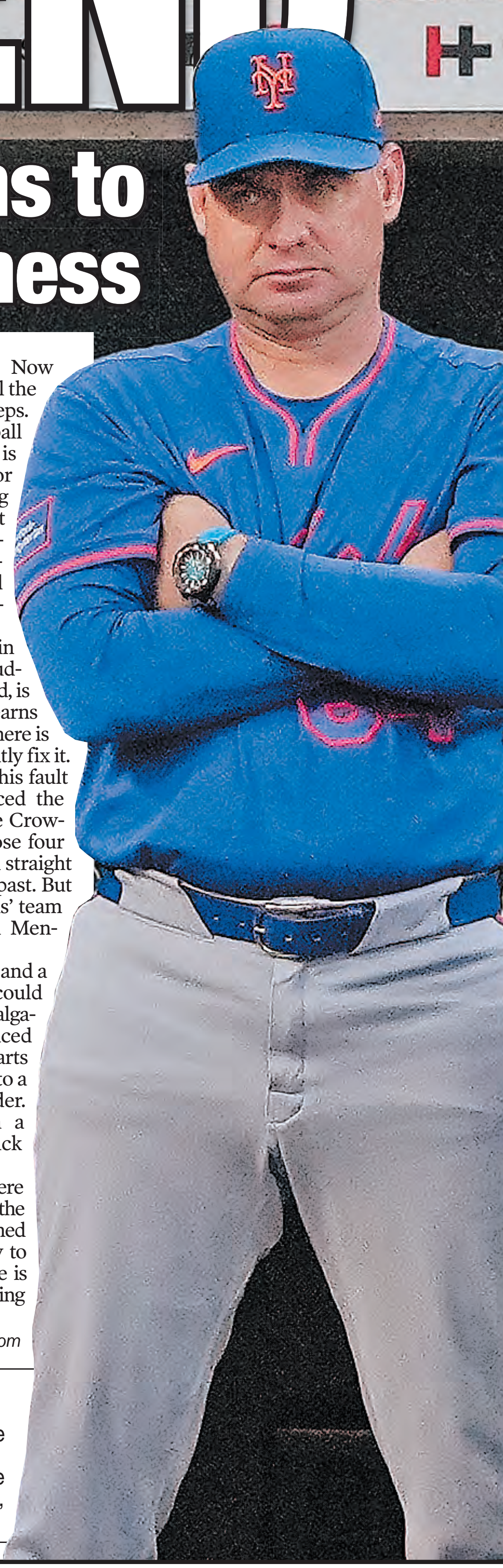


Terry Collins

THE MEND'

Heat squarely on Stearns to clean up this Amazin' mess



GIL HODGES could not make Jorge Polanco healthy. Davey Johnson could not make Marcus Semien young. Bobby Valentine could not make Mark Vientos athletic.

Carlos Mendoza did not assemble this Mets jigsaw puzzle of mismatched and injury prone and not as good as hoped.

This is David Stearns' use of money, philosophy and, thus, roster building.

But this is the way it generally works in the baseball world when large disappointment follows great expectations. First, coaches are fired, as they were after last season. Then the manager is, as Carlos Mendoza was early Friday morning. Now there is no further buffer between Stearns and two outcomes:

1. Fixing this to what was anticipated when he was hired — serial championship contention.

Or ...

2. Be on the firing line himself if next season also spins wrong, which would make Stearns one of the highest-paid executive failures in the history of sports (not just baseball).

Mendoza was axed with the Mets at 34-47. That is 81 games, not just halfway through the 2026 schedule but also through Stearns' five-year contract. His 2 ½ seasons in charge, in which his first big decision was hiring Mendoza, have been getting steadily worse. The Mets snuck into the playoffs the first year with mainly not his players, barely missed in humiliating fashion last year and this season — with a roster and strategy more his than ever — had the NL's third-worst record.

Still, as late as before the Cubs series began, Cohen and Stearns were not intending to can Mendoza. He was not seen as the main culprit to this failure, and the leadership was fine sticking with him even through, say, 77-85.

But then the Mets were swept four games at home by the Cubs, often looking as if they had been introduced to baseball gloves on the way into Citi Field. A fanbase that has endured many horror shows since 1962 was appalled that a group paid this much assembled by an executive who Cohen waited two years to hire could perform this dreadfully.

Suddenly, a ritual sacrifice was needed. Since Mendoza was not going to return in 2027 anyway off of this team performance, Cohen signaled to Stearns that change was needed to be merciful to Mendoza, not to just keep him twisting daily about his fate while acknowledging the poor play and furious fans.

"In our estimation, change was needed right now," Stearns said.

Ever since Mendoza's 2027 option was not picked up, he was on the clock.

That is Stearns now. This is his mess.

Joel Sherman

A mess so deep that part of what was protecting Mendoza was a question of if not him, who? That would have been easy last year. The bench coach was John Gibbons, a former manager. He could have handed off all the pitching responsibilities to Jeremy Hefner, a veteran pitching coach, who like Gibbons had played for the Mets and since 2020 had been through multiple administrations in the dugout and C-suite.

Now?

Could the Mets really promote first-year, never-managed bench coach Kai Correa, whose claim to fame was improving infield defense. Really? After that Cubs series debacle? And matched him with who? First-year pitching coach Justin Willard? Instead, at a time when a form of rebuilding must be done, the Mets installed their farm director, Andy Green, as the Mendoza fill-in. In four seasons (2016-19) with mainly mismatched, underqualified Padres rosters, Green was an abysmal 274-366 (.428). He accepted this as "responsibility" he said, not as a job he was seeking or one he will stay in beyond this season.

The best of what Green could send to himself — Nolan McLean, Carson Benge, A.J. Ewing — is already here. Most of the rest of the team's close-to-the-majors prospects are having down seasons to date. So Green now faces the same issues as Mendoza, like is Kodai Senga struggling with confidence or care factor? Does Francisco Alvarez still have any pathway to being a difference-making catcher? Who is starting Monday ... or Tuesday ... or Wednesday?

Cohen has not wanted to overreact. He does not find comparisons to George Steinbrenner charming. He knows a lot of executives turned him down fearing he actually is the character — and caricature — from "Billions." He knows Stearns getting canned midway through a deal will only perpetuate a stereotype among potential replacements. So he is desperate for this to work. Stearns insisted he still had Cohen's complete faith.

But even if that is true, it is not endless, especially with too few signs that tomorrow is going to be better — if we even play major league baseball in the tomorrow of 2027. Cohen bought this franchise wanting to be a hero to a long-suffering fanbase. Now Cohen is living through all the familiar Wilpon-ian missteps. Yet again a head of baseball operations was saying he is the person to blame for Mets failure ... while firing someone else. I don't know if I have seen that reenacted more at Shea Stadium and now Citi Field or "The Shawshank Redemption."

"Everything that occurs in baseball operations, including our major league record, is my responsibility," Stearns said. He also offered that there is "no magic bullet" to instantly fix it.

This is not 100 percent his fault — you might have noticed the five tools of hell that Pete Crow-Armstrong unleashed those four games for the Cubs at Citi straight from Stupid Mets Tricks past. But this was way more Stearns' team (and responsibility) than Mendoza's.

Mendoza is a good man and a good baseball man who could not turn whatever this amalgamation of broken, misplaced and beyond-their-prime parts that the fans do not like into a functioning contender. Green will now try on a short-term basis. Good luck with that.

But once the coaches were fired and now the manager, the lifelong Mets fan who seemed such an ideal choice to try to fix all of this is next. There is no longer a buffer protecting Stearns from Cohen.

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GETTING HOT IN HERE: Carlos Mendoza got fired on Friday for the Mets' 34-47 start to the season, but the heat is now on team president David Stearns (left) to get this right or feel the wrath of owner Steve Cohen (far right), writes The Post's Joel Sherman.

OF THE LINE

Mets axe Mendoza amid nightmare season

By MIKE PUMA

The decor on the Titanic was updated Friday to include a new tinge of Green.

After a horrific Mets half-season that followed last year's collapse, Carlos Mendoza was fired as manager and replaced on an interim basis by Andy Green, who had been serving as the organization's vice president for player development. Mendoza learned of his fate during a morning meeting with president of baseball operations David Stearns.

The Mets entered the day with a six-game losing streak, leaving them 34-47 and last in the NL East as MLB's biggest flop. Mendoza was in the final season of a three-year contract that contained a club option for 2027.

"You are a partner with the manager — Carlos and I spoke almost every day for the last 2 ½ years, so these are difficult decisions," Stearns said.

As the architect of this nightmare, Stearns was asked if as a "partner" with Mendoza he had considered stepping aside from his own position.

"I believe that we are building the foundation of an organization that can deliver what we all want," said Stearns, who is overseeing a $380 million payroll. "I don't believe that our record on the field is indicative of some of the advancements that we have made as an organization, but clearly our record is nowhere good enough."

Stearns said the decision to fire Mendoza was organizational and included consultation with team owner Steve Cohen. Stearns declined to say who initiated the managerial change. Stearns added that Cohen assured him his job is safe.

Stearns also took a measure of responsibility for the team's dismal performance.

"Ultimately everything that occurs in baseball operations, including our major league record, is my responsibility," Stearns said. "I also have a responsibility to push us forward, to look for solutions and to make difficult decisions and change when I think it's needed."

Green, who managed the Padres to a 274-466 record from 2016-19, will serve in the managerial role until the season's conclusion before returning to the front office, according to Stearns. It will leave the Mets with a full managerial search to conduct in the offseason.

"We're in a situation where you have an incredibly talented group of baseball players that haven't come together to perform at the level we all expect, and I think you say, 'What can you do in this seat that is going to be different?'" Green said. "I can't stand in the box. I can't go catch a ground ball. I can't throw a pitch from the mound. This isn't a strategy problem.

"The best thing we can do is recognize what keeps most people from performing is the burden they carry with them to work every day and that burden is usually from carrying too much and wanting to be great for a city, for a manager, for a team, and it comes from carrying the baggage yesterday into today."

Mendoza, 46, became the first Mets manager fired in-season since Willie Randolph in 2008. Mendoza presided over last season's second-half collapse that prevented the Mets from reaching the postseason, but was allowed to return with an almost completely overhauled coaching staff.

Stearns indicated the Mets are still playing this season with an eye toward a turnaround.

"I understand we have an uphill battle ahead of us this year, but we're not turning the page," Stearns said of a team that began play removed from the NL's final wildcard spot by 9 ½ games. "We all remain very focused on doing everything we can to win as many games this year while recognizing where we are in the standings."

It's a team that lost Juan Soto to a calf strain in April and upon his return saw Francisco Lindor sidelined for two months with a similar injury. But the Mets have also received little playing time from injured Jorge Polanco and Luis Robert, who were significant parts of Stearns' winter overhaul to the roster. Another key addition, Bo Bichette, has only begun to produce in recent weeks.

And the starting rotation has crumbled, with Kodai Senga and David Peterson (who was traded to the Cubs this week) as two of the problems. Freddy Peralta, the team's offseason pitching prize, has pitched to a 4.53 ERA.

Lindor said he spoke to Mendoza on Friday, and the former manager apologized for not helping the team win enough.

"But at the end of the day, it was not on him," Lindor said. "This is not on him, it's more on us, the players, that we perform to our capabilities."

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AP; Robert Sabo; Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

Who's next?

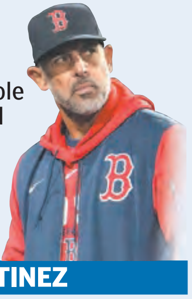
Change is afoot in Flushing.

On Friday, the Mets fired manager Carlos Mendoza after 2 ½ seasons with the team. He had the Mets sitting at the bottom of the NL East with a 34-47 record despite a $320-plus million roster at his disposal.

The Mets appointed Andy Green as the interim manager. The 48-year-old held the role of senior vice president, baseball development, and will get a chance to salvage this Mets season in the second half — but president of baseball operations David Stearns on Friday said Green will return to the front office at season's end.

Here is a look at the long-term candidates who likely will be on the short list to replace Mendoza, according to The Post's Joel Sherman, Jon Heyman and Mike Puma:

ALEX CORA



Cora could be looking for a new job after being fired from Boston's managerial role in April. Cora managed the Red Sox to a World Series win in 2018, but was let go after Boston's 10-17 start to the season.

J.D. MARTINEZ

The former Mets slugger was named a special assistant to baseball operations in March. He was a key member of the "OMG" Mets and was seen in the dugout talking with Francisco Lindor just this week. Several players Martinez mentored are still on the team and the 38-year-old could be in line to continue that stewardship much more closely.

CARLOS BELTRAN

The Hall of Famer has no prior managerial experience, but he was hired by the Mets in 2019. They mutually agreed to part ways before he ever managed a game, though, after he was prominently implicated in the Astros' sign-stealing scandal. Beltran serves as a special assistant to Stearns in the Mets front office now.

GEORGE LOMBARD

Lombard, the Tigers bench coach under A.J. Hinch, has been moving up the coaching ranks since 2010, most notably making three World Series appearances as the Dodgers' first-base coach.

WALKER MCKINVEN

McKinven has a relationship with Stearns from his time with the Brewers, and has worked his way up the White Sox system to bench coach.

ROB THOMSON

Another recently fired manager to note is Thomson, previously of the Phillies. He was fired in April after starting 9-19 with a $300-plus million payroll. He has been in baseball for over 40 years, working his way up the Yankees' system from third base coach for the team's Class-A affiliate in 1990 to bench coach in 2015.

DICK SCOTT

The Mets could call up Scott, the Triple-A Syracuse manager. He has worked multiple roles for the franchise, including field coordinator of instruction, bench coach and director of player development.

— Collin Ward

Everett Collection

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"I Love Boosters" (VOD), Boots Riley's madcap surrealist satire of late capitalism, has us wanting more leading roles in comedies for **Keke Palmer** (left).

OUR CALL: STREAM IT

WHAT TO WATCH

Before you knew her from HBO's **"Girls," Lena Dunham** (left) directed the extremely underrated independent film **"Tiny Furniture"** (which is streaming on HBO Max). In her recent novel **"Famesick,"** Dunham writes about the film paving the way for her career. Filmed on a budget of only $50,000, Dunham's directorial debut is a staple in the "mumblecore" movement of the 2000s.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

LETTING HER GUARD DOWN

Gia Giudice 'can't wait' for fans to see more of her true self in 'Next Gen NYC' Season 2

Gia Giudice (left, below) stars on Bravo's "Next Gen NYC" with Emira D'Spain (below left).

Bronson Farr/Bravo

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

Gia Giudice has been on reality television for the greater part of her life, so it's not surprising that she can easily sniff out manufactured drama.

Now entering her second season of **"Next Gen NYC,"** Gia is ready to share a more vulnerable part of her life with the audience. "I really let my guard down," the **"Special Forces: World's Toughest Test"** Season 4 winner told DECIDER, teasing that fans will get an inside look at some major life changes — from moving out of her childhood home and into her own apartment, to managing her growing career as a podcaster and influencer.

While Gia may be focused on navigating her newfound independence this season, the "Next Gen NYC" drama somehow reaches far beyond its core cast. Her mom, Teresa Giudice, gets caught in the crossfire after fellow nepo baby Ava Dash claims the **"Real Housewives of New Jersey"** legend unfollowed her on Instagram, which, according to Gia, couldn't be further from the truth.

"I don't know why you would even bring that up. I think it's a little embarrassing," Gia said, before adding, "I do not think that's something that my mother would ever intentionally do, and there was just no [malicious] intention behind it. So, I thought the whole thing was very weird and calculated, in my opinion. I just didn't see the point of it. The plane wasn't landing."

In case you were wondering, the two women are currently following each other on the social media platform, with Gia explaining that Dash felt "a little foolish" for even making it an issue on their show. "The second I told my mom about it, she was like, 'Oh, my God, what?' She had no idea," Gia said. "My mom barely knows how to work technology, so it was just so crazy."

DECIDER: I'm so excited to talk to you all about "Next Gen NYC" Season 2. Last season, you went on "Watch What Happens Live" and said you felt like you came off as harsh and aggressive in the show. Did you feel the same about this season?

GIA GIUDICE: No, I'm actually super excited for Season 2 and I guess I'll be even more excited once I really see it. But going into Season 2, I really let my guard down, and I just let everyone come in, if that makes sense. I really opened up about my journey moving out of my house. You're really going to see a lot of my work life and what I do for work. You're going to see a lot of **"Casual Chaos,"** things that I do with brands. I'm super excited for you guys to really see what I do on a day-to-day basis, because I feel like that really wasn't shown in Season 1. You're going to see a lot more in depth into my relationship with my boyfriend, Christian. I'm excited. I think overall, you guys are just really going to get deeper into who I am as a person, and I can't wait for you guys to see that.

Fans were quick to notice that Georgia McCann is doing the After Show alone. Is there a specific reason for that? How is she with the group this season?

Georgia honestly caused, I think, a lot of unintentional drama. She stirred the pot a little bit. But I don't think [the After Show] was on purpose. I honestly think that was just like a scheduling conflict.

Your mom is obviously back filming "Real Housewives of New Jersey" as we speak. How are she and Melissa handling going into this season? How are they planning to keep that peace?

I think they're really going into the season as a united front. I think there really is just nothing to fight about anymore, without really bringing up the past, and that's something that they're not doing. The only way that they were able to make this [reconciliation] worth it and last was to let go of the past. And that goes for all of us. Going into "Real Housewives of New Jersey," I think fans are going to be so excited and happy to see their relationship. It really is so beautiful. Also, a lot of the new ladies are incredible and I think they really are happy to see my mom and aunt back together. Nobody's trying to mess anything up. Which I think is very refreshing.

NETFLIX

TRENDING NOW

"Leanne" is coming back to our screens! Netflix just announced all 10 episodes of the second season will premiere on Aug. 27. The sitcom follows Leanne (played by Leanne Morgan) as she navigates the loss of her husband with the support of her no-filter family. This season will feature new guest stars including country artist **Lainey Wilson** (left).

WHAT'S NEW

ON HALLMARK CHANNEL

"**A Castle of Our Own**," a romance.

ON LIFETIME

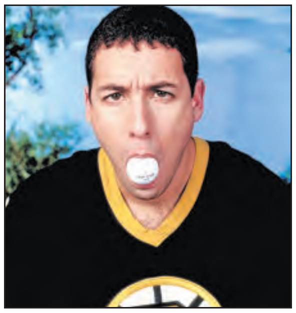
"**Single Black Tenant**," starring and executive produced by **Tia Mowry** (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

SPORT

2026 FIFA World Cup: 4:45 p.m. on WNYW 5. England at Panama from New York/ New Jersey Stadium. England was stunned with a 0-0 draw against Ghana.



COMEDY

Happy Gilmore: 6:30 p.m. on COM. Adam Sandler, Christopher McDonald. A bad tempered hockey player takes his talents to golf to get his house back.

ADVENTURE

Spaceballs: 9 p.m. on WNET 13. Mel Brooks, John Candy. A star-pilot for hire and his trusty half-dog sidekick must come to the rescue of a spoiled princess.

Saturday June 27, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Inside Edition	WNBA Tip-Off Live.	WNBA Basketball: Los Angeles Sparks at Indiana Fever from Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Live.				48 Hours: My Mother Never Came Home (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Entertainment
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	LX.TV: 1st Look	American Ninja Warrior: Western Regional Finals (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live (R)
5 WNYW	5	5	5	FIFA World Cup Live.	(7:15) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Portugal at Colombia from Miami Stadium. Live.					(9:45) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Argentina at Jordan from Dallas Stadium. Live.				
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	9-1-1: Nashville: Bad Case of the Blues (R)		9-1-1: Nashville: Lost Children (R)		9-1-1: Nashville: Small Potatoes (R)		Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Paid Program	Paid Program	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The 10 O'Clock News	Finally Caught: Jessie (R)		In Depth: Barry Diller
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(5:30) NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: Pit Boss/FoodMaxx 250 Live.			I Am Patrick Swayze (2019, Documentary) Nicole David. NR				PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		Seinfeld	Seinfeld: Abstinence
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	The Austin Film	Inspector George Gently: Gently with Class			Spaceballs (1987, Comedy) Mel Brooks. PG ★★★			(10:42) The Night of the 12th (2023, Crime) Bastien Bouillon, Bouli Lanners. NR		
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Mack	Firing (R)	Midsomer Murders: Four Funerals			(9:35) Velvet: Sewing and Singing (R)			American Experience (R)	
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★			Mack	Profiles	GZero
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Shooter		NCIS: The Admiral		NCIS: Honor Thy Father		NCIS: Twenty Klicks		NCIS: Kill the Messenger	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	Piensa Rápido		The Lego Movie 2				Oríllese a la orilla		Fam. de 10	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Mundial 26	Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026: Portugal vs Colombia. Directo.					Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026: Argentina vs Jordan. Directo.				
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	Last Man	Last Man	Fire Country		NCIS: Hawai'i: Nurture		Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage Wars (R)		Storage Wars: Back		Storage Wars		(10:01) Storage Wars (R)		(11:04) Storage Wars (R)	
AMC	54	43	231	Star Wars	Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (1980) Mark Hamill. PG ★★★½						Star Wars: Episode VI: Return of the Jedi (1983) PG			
BBCAM	71	101	189	Planet	Planet Earth III		Wild Spring: Survival		(9:11) Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. PG-13 ★★★½					
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. R			
BRAVO	18	44	185	He's Not Into You (2009)		She's All That (1999, Comedy) Freddie Prinze Jr. ★★½				He's Just Not That Into You (2009, Comedy) Ben Affleck. PG-13 ★★½				
CNBC	15	24	102	Greed (R)	American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		Real Time with		American on Purpose		American on Purpose		Real Time with (R)	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Happy Gilmore (1996, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★★				Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R ★★★					Talladega Nights: Ballad	
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Coco (2017) Anthony Gonzalez. PG ★★★½			(8:50) Kiff	(9:15) Kiff	(9:40) Kiff	Phineas	Phineas	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	There's Something About Mary (1998) R		
ESPN	28	36	70	The 2026 E	ESPN Films	Banana Bal	Banana Ball: Bananas vs. Party Animals Live.				X Games Sacramento 2026 Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	(6:00) E60	2026 APP Vlasic Classic Cincinnati				The 2026 ESPYS (R)		Fighters League Live.			
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car	
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		My View with Lara Trump		Fox News Saturday Night		Gutfeld! (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	Cars 3 ★★★	(7:20) Monsters, Inc. (2001, Comedy) John Goodman, Billy Crystal.					(9:25) Monsters University (2013, Comedy) Donald Andersen. G ★★★				
FS1	400	99	83	World Cup	FIFA World	2026 FIFA World Cup: Uzbekistan at Congo. Live.				FIFA World	2026 FIFA World Cup: Austria at Algeria. Live.			
FX	10	40	53	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017)			Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (2023, Action) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★½							Alien R ★★★
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Christmas by Starlight (2020) ★★★			A Castle of Our Own (2026) Brennan Elliott.				Texas Two-Step (2026) Heather Hemmens.			
HGTV	64	98	165	House	House	House	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	World War	World War II w. (R)		History's Grea. (R)		(9:02) History's Grea. (R)		History's Grea.: Mission		(11:05) History's Grea. (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Neighbor	Fear Thy Neighbor		Betrayed: Kill with Kind.		Betrayed: The Predator		To Be Announced		Betrayed: Unholy Alliance	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) The Dating App Killer (2026)			Single Black Tenant (2026)				(10:03) My Husband's Mistress (2025, Thriller)			
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	Destroy All Monsters (1969, Science Fiction) Akira Kubo. G ★★½					Batman	Star Trek: Triskelion	
MSG	27	87	78	Coaches Corner		Team Boxing League: Nashville Smash at Miami Assassins					Team Boxing League: Houston Hitmen at LA Elite			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(12:00) FanDuel Racing									Fairways of Life	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		The 11th Hour with Ali (R)	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★					Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★				
NATGEO	65	162	121	(6:00) Ibiza	Liverpool Narcos: Heroin		Liverpool Narcos (R)		Liverpool Narcos (R)		Liverpool Narcos: Heroin		Liverpool Narcos (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	Sing (2016)	Sing 2 (2021, Family) Matthew McConaughey. PG ★★★½					Friends	Bang	Bang: Troll	(11:15) Big Bang Theory	
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Heart	Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston	
PARMT	36	56	54	(5:05) Grown Ups (2010)		Grown Ups 2 (2013, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★					Grown Ups (2010, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½			
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Game	Post Game	Specials	MLB Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies at New York Mets from Citi Field. Replay.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe. ★★★						Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009) Daniel Radcliffe. ★★★				
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. R				Father of the Bride (1991, Comedy) Steve Martin. ★★★			
TCM	82	41	230	(5:45) Edge of Darkness (1943, Drama)			Sullivan's Travels (1941, Comedy) Joel McCrea. ★★★½				Contempt (1964, Drama) Brigitte Bardot. NR ★★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)		Little Singles (R)		Little Singles (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	Central Intelligence (2016) Kevin Hart.			All Elite Wrestling: Collision: Collision 6/27/2026				Collision	Central Intelligence (2016) Kevin Hart.		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire: Quicksand		Chicago Fire: A Favor		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire: Relief Cut	
VH1	19	52	217	Safe (2012, Action) Jason Statham. ★★★			F9 (2021, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★½							Heist R ★★½
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Restless		NCIS: Penelope Papers		NCIS: Enemy on the Hill		NCIS: Safe Harbor		NCIS: Thirst	
YES	53	89	76	Major League Cricket: MI New York at Los Angeles Knight Riders.					Athletes Unlimited Women Live.				Postgame	Postgame
HBO	511	301	400	(6:13) Of the Dragon (R)		Life Larry	Undertone (2026, Horror) Nina Kiri. R			(9:35) Of the Dragon (R)		Life, Larry: Livingston (R)		Ready One
MAX	531	371	420	(5:14) Margaret (2011) ★★★		Evil Dead Rise (2023, Horror) Alyssa Sutherland. ★★★				(9:21) The Hole in the Ground (2019) ★★			House of 1000 Corpses R	
MGM Plus	595		395	(5:20) Project Hail Mary (2026, Drama)			Saving Private Ryan (1998, Drama) Tom Hanks. R ★★★★					Executive Decision (1996) Kurt Russell.		
PARSHO	551	321	365	The Agency	The Agency	(7:45) The Agency		Taken (2009, Action) Liam Neeson. ★★★			Quantum of Solace (2008, Action) Daniel Craig. ★★★			

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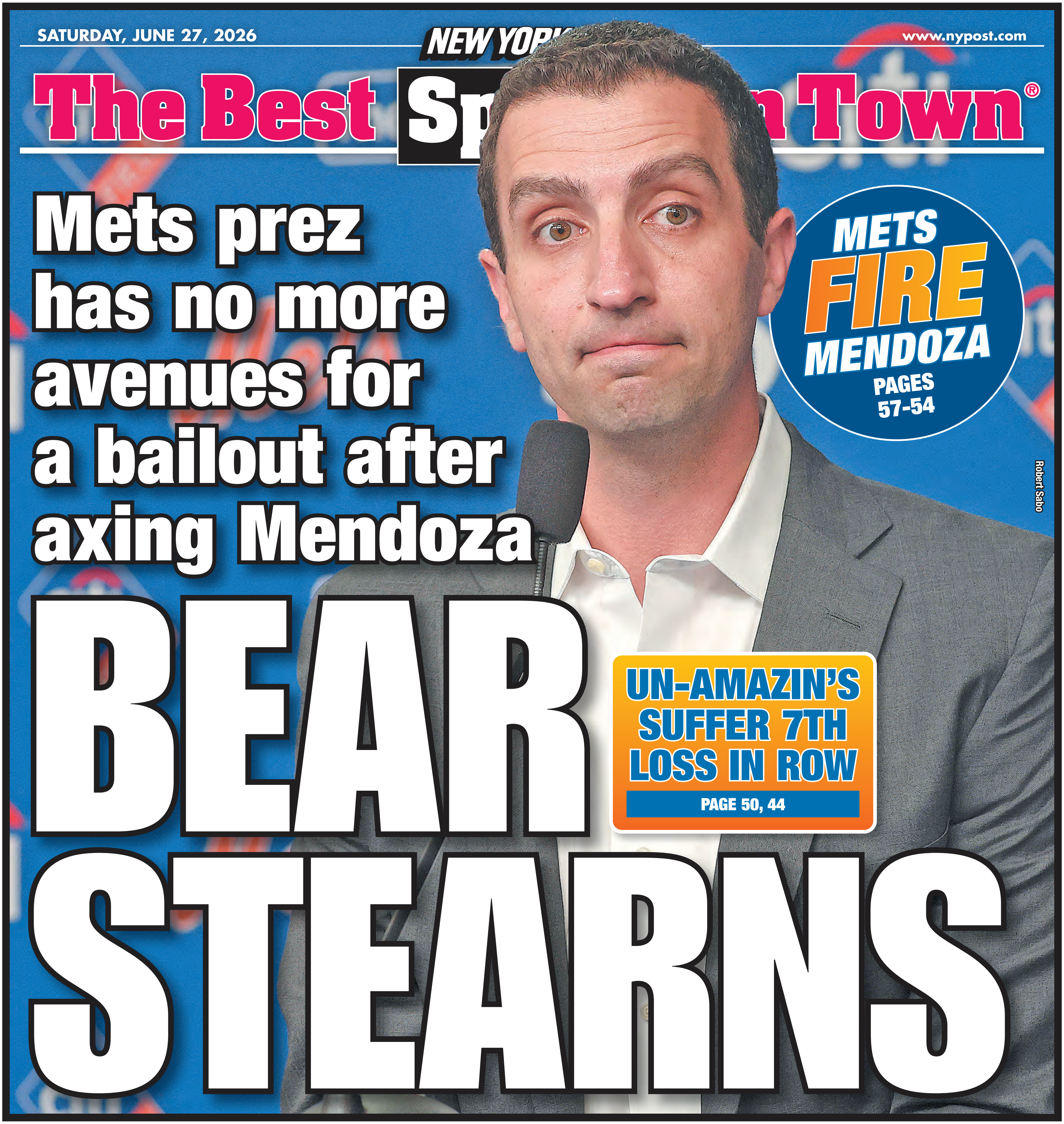

Robert Sabo

Mets prez has no more avenues for a bailout after axing Mendoza

BEAR STEARNS

METS FIRE MENDOZA

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UN-AMAZIN'S SUFFER 7TH LOSS IN ROW

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RANGERS PULL OFF TRADE SHOCKER

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